

# The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

Vol. XVI, No. 47

FRIDAY, November 19, 1954

United States 1 year \$2.50; 3 years \$5.00  
Canada and foreign 1 year \$3.00; 3 years \$6.50

## GOING HOME

By Missionary Norman Lewis  
Casilla 650, Rosario, Argentina, S. A.

"Man goeth to his long home."—Eccl. 12:5.

"In my father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you."—John 14:2.

On November 10 we begin our tenth year in Argentina. But family talk now centers in "going home" to the U.S.A. Strange idea that, since five of our seven children have never been out of Argentina. Yet, of "going home" we talk. What a thrill!

It is said that the best of vacation is the day one returns home. These years spent in Argentina could hardly be considered a vacation. But we are tremendously

stirred about "going home." Desires long dormant quicken into life. Pent-up emotions threaten a

(Continued on page 9)



Missionary and Mrs. Norman Lewis with Peter, Philip, Daniel, Timothy, Ann, David, and Jonathan. All are enthusiastic about "going home."

One of the Prize Winners in \$1,600 "Sermons on Vital Public Issues" Contest

## Is The Bible The Word of God?

by Dr. Merrill C. Tenney

811 North Main Street, Wheaton, Illinois

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord..."  
—I Thess. 4:15.

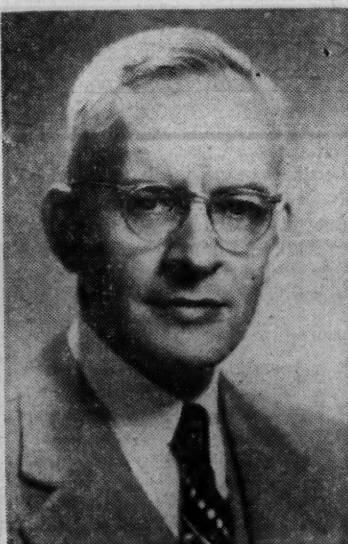
A serious problem confronted the new Christians of the city of Thessalonica. They had only recently turned to the living God from their idolatry, and had just entered into the joy of a newly found faith. Life to them seemed very wonderful and very different as they revelled in a new freedom and shook off the shackles of their old fears and superstitions. Suddenly, however, death struck their little company, and took from them some of their friends. They began to wonder what would happen to those who had died, for they had expected the return of the Lord, and had not lived to see it. Would they miss the glory of being with the Lord and of witnessing His presence?

The problem demanded an answer, and they wrote to their

evangelist and pastor, Paul, to find out what he would say about it. They were sure that he would know, and that he would be able to remove their uncertainty. Evidently he took them seriously, for he did not merely offer an opinion, but he replied in an authoritative tone, "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord..."

The writer of the foregoing words was a Jew who was steeped in the culture and traditions of his nation. He had been nurtured on the writings of the prophets who had begun their ministry with the consciousness that they were called by God and that they were filled with the divine message when they said, "The word of the Lord came unto me, saying..." (Ezek. 6:1), or some

(Continued on page 9)



Dean Merrill C. Tenney

A Thanksgiving  
Sermon



"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."—Ps. 103:1-5.

The Pilgrim Fathers who had come to America to make a home in the wilderness where they might have freedom to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience, had the first harvest in 1621. So at Plymouth, Massachusetts, the little handful of devoted people, hewing homes out of the wilderness amid many perils, set apart a day for thanksgiving to God. And on that day they feasted and gave thanks. President Lincoln appointed the

Christmas Gift Subscriptions.  
See page two.

last Thursday of November, 1864, as Thanksgiving Day. Now the Thanksgiving Day tradition is firmly established in America, and every person who has a grateful heart should devoutly thank God and take stock and count his blessings.

However, Thanksgiving Day

should only be one day to make official and public the praise that should resound in our hearts and testimonies throughout the year. By divine inspiration, David wrote, "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth!" (Ps. 34:1). Again he said, "And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long" (Ps. 35:28).

In Psalm 71:22 to 24, David said:

"I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp,"

(Continued on page 4)

## the PENITENT THIEF

by D. L. Moody



"And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, to day shalt thou be with me in paradise."—Luke 23:39-43.

I want to call your attention to the conversion of the thief on the cross.

Two ladies came to see me this morning and said that I had brought them into trouble by teaching that people could be converted suddenly. I thought we had gotten that trouble all out of the way, that we had proved from Scripture that conversion is instantaneous; but I find there are a good many still in darkness, so I want to give you this example to show that conversion is instantaneous.

It gives us all a great deal of hope and comfort that Jesus, just before He went back to Heaven, saved such a man at all. He was a thief and the very worst kind of thief, or else they wouldn't have punished him by crucifixion; yet Christ not only saves him from his sins, but takes him up with Him when He goes to Glory. Ah, my friends, if Jesus isn't ashamed of such a man, surely no sinner need to feel that he is left out.

It is a blessed fact that all kinds of men and women are represented among the converts in the Gospels, and almost all of

them were converted suddenly. Very many people object to sudden conversions; but you may read in the Acts of the Apostles of eight thousand people converted in two days. That seems to me rather quick work. If all the

(Continued on page 11)



D. L. Moody



## For Young People

# MIRACLES of SCIENCE

by the late  
Arthur J. Brown M.D.



### How Nature Clothes Her Children

In our last session we were thinking of some of the curious examples of compensation seen in animals. That is, some animals seem to lack parts which in our opinion, might be absolutely necessary if they are to carry on with any degree of comfort or success. In all these instances, we have discovered that they have been given compensatory parts or organs, which operate quite satisfactorily in the absence of those parts found in other animals. In other words, the Creator is able to bring about the same desired result in many different ways.

#### Covering

Think for a moment of the covering of different animals. This covering varies greatly, but is always suited to each animal, and meets its special need perfectly. There are bristles, hair, wool, fur, feathers, quills, prickles, and scales. If we had the power to change this covering, in individual instances, it would always be for the worse. It may be stated here, that these various coverings in many cases serve as armor as well as clothing, for protection as well as for warmth.

Man is the only mammal that is naked, and the only one that has the power to clothe himself. Thus he is able to live in all climates, and at all seasons, because he can adapt his covering to the temperature requirements. If we were born with a thick coat of fleece, it would be a source of comfort in cold climates, and a great saving of clothing, but how oppressive would be its heat and weight in warmer regions.

So, what art has done for man, Nature has done for animals incapable of art. Their clothing, of its own accord, changes with the necessity of the season. Animals with a covering of fur do not have to plan change of raiment. When winter approaches, the fur grows much thicker; and when spring returns, the weight of the fur is diminished.

It is interesting to note that bears, wolves, foxes, hares, and the like, that do not take to the water, have their fur much thicker on the back than underneath; whereas animals like the beaver, have a much thicker coat in the abdominal region than on the back.

The covering of birds must not escape our observation. There are so many interesting features here

—its lightness, its smoothness, its warmth, the disposition of the feathers, all inclined backward, the downy covering of the stem, the overlapping of their tips, their different arrangement in different parts, the variety of colors. All this constitutes a vestment for the body of the bird, so beautiful and perfect that we can imagine nothing to equal it.

And, by the way, every feather is a mechanical wonder—the quill, strong, and light, and hollow, tapering to a fine point with a geometrical precision accurate to the millionth part of an inch. It is tough, light, pliant, elastic—exactly what is needed. The barbs and barbules on the sides of the quill are remarkable structures. We all know that when these tiny barbules are pulled apart, they resist our efforts slightly; and when we remove our fingers, they snap back to their original position. Examined with a magnifying glass, you will find that these parts of the feather have been equipped with infinitely small locks—thousands of them, the parts fitting into one another with a beautiful precision which baffles description. On a large feather, it has been pointed out that there are more than a million of these perfect locks.

To small birds, the Creator gave a bed of soft down, next to their bodies. This down retains air, a bad conductor of heat, and so they are kept warm.

#### Mouths

A study of the mouths of various animals reveals some strange devices. The mouth is used to receive food, to catch prey, to pick up seeds, to crop herbs, to extract juices, to suck liquids, to break and grind food, to taste it, and also is intended to assist in respiration and the utterance of sound. These various offices in different species are performed in different ways or with a variation in structure which is amazing.

Because we have hands to convey food to the mouth, our mouth is flat, and designed only for reception; whereas the dog, for instance, has projecting jaws and pointed teeth which enable him to apply his mouth to snatch and seize the objects of his pursuit. The ox, the deer, the horse, and sheep need to browse upon their pasture. Accordingly, they have

full lips, rough tongue, a corrugated, cartilaginous palate, and broad cutting teeth, so, where the grass is long, they gather large mouthfuls at once, and where the grass is short, they can bite close.

Have you noticed the retiring under-jaw of the pig, which works in the ground after the protruding snout, like a prong or ploughshare, has made its way to the roots upon which it feeds?

In birds, the mouth assumes a new character, both in substance and form, wonderfully well adapted to the wants and uses of their mode of existence. No longer do we see fleshy lips, or teeth of enamel and dentine. Instead, we see a hard substance cut into proper shapes, and mechanically suited to the needed actions—the bill.

The sparrow's bill, with its sharp edge and tempered point, enables it to pick up every kind of seed it wants. With it, the sparrow hulls the grain, breaks and shatters the coats of the seed, to get at the kernel. The hooked beak of the hawk separates the flesh from the bones of the animal upon which it feeds—with the cleanness of precision of a dissector's knife. The spoonbill of the goose makes it easy to collect food from the bottom of pools among the soft or liquid substances mixed with it. The snipe and the woodcock have long tapering bills which can penetrate deep into the moist earth where the food is lodged. It is exactly the instrument needed. They need length rather than strength which conforms also to the slender neck, and are provided with a perfect tool.

Some birds live by suction, and have what are known as serrated bills, the inside of which, toward the edge, are thickly set with rows of short, strong, sharp-pointed prickles. These are not for the purpose of mastication, like the teeth of mammals; nor yet are they as in fish, for seizing and retaining their prey. They have an entirely different use. They form a filter.

The duck, for instance, penetrates the puddle of mud or whatever mixture is likely to contain its food. By suction it draws the liquid or semi-liquid substances through the narrow gaps lying between these prickles, which we might call teeth, for want of a better name. As the stream passes across its beak, it separates what it wants and discharges the rest. What more could the duck want than this natural filter?

Everything about the animal mouth is mechanical. The teeth of fish have their points turning back; the teeth of lobsters work one against another, like the sides of a pair of shears. In many insects, the mouth is converted into a pump or sucker, fitted at one end with a gimlet arrangement, sometimes with a forceps, so they are able to bore through and extract the juices on which they live.

Whether it be lips or teeth, or bill or beak, or shears or pump, it is always the same part, changed to suit the special animal. Under all the variations in construction, the organs of taste and smell are situated near each other. If the odor is offensive, we humans will not taste—or will we? What about limburger cheese? Odors which are repellent to humans are often very much liked by animals.

In quadrupeds, the absence of certain teeth is usually accompanied by the faculty of rumination, where the food is swallowed, and then returned to the mouth to be chewed over again, and swallowed again while the digestion is completed in another compartment of the stomach. The sheep, deer and ox-tribe are without front teeth in the upper jaw, and so they ruminate.

Birds have no teeth with which to grind their food, but are furnished with the gizzard, the inner coat of which is fitted with hard, rough plaits or folds. By powerful rubbing against one another, they break and grind the hard food substances, making it easy then for

## Rush Those Subscriptions for CHRISTMAS GIFTS

3 One-Year Subscriptions for Only \$5  
25 or More One-Year Subscriptions at \$1.50 per Year  
100 Families per Month, \$12.50

By Viola Walden,  
Secretary to Dr. Rice

Christmas comes at just the right time this year!

By that I mean that the great plans we have made for THE SWORD OF THE LORD, the wonderful features which will be coming up beginning in January, and the special prices available now, make THE SWORD OF THE LORD an ideal Christmas present.

Just look at these wonderful subscription prices.

The regular subscription price to THE SWORD OF THE LORD is \$2.50 per year in the United States and to men in the armed services, or

the gastric secretion to digest them. Without this unique grinding-machine inside its body, all the common fowls, such as turkeys, ducks, geese, pigeons, etc., would have starved to death, even though surrounded and filled with unbroken grain kernels. A bill and a gizzard go together, and a gizzard is never found where there are teeth. A gizzard is not found in birds of prey, because their food does not require grinding in a mill.

#### Mobility

Some animals have no feet. How is this lack compensated for? Snakes can move rapidly because of the way the muscles and tissues of the trunk are constructed. Their rapid zigzag movement is made possible by the arrangement of their scaly covering, and the wonderful mobility of their ball-and-socket jointed vertebrae and ribs.

The lowly earthworm has a body made up of a series of rings and moves with a curious undulatory motion, aided by prickly hairs on the surface of its body, which this animal can pull in close to itself of thrust out and lay hold on the rough surface over which it creeps, this strange muscular action working admirably to make possible this method of locomotion.

There is no end to observations like these. I have brought them to your attention in order that you may catch a glimpse of Omniscience. Do you not see some of God's wisdom and power in all these astonishing adaptations at which we have looked? And, particularly are you not struck with the infinite thoughtfulness of the Creator? Everything that animals need is in their possession when they come into existence, contrivances which exactly fit the needs of each specimen.

Is it to be wondered at when the Psalmist exclaims in Psalm 31: 19: "Oh, how great is Thy goodness which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men."

Here is the goodness of God prepared and kept in store, or "laid up," as the Psalmist puts it, for a certain group—"them that fear Thee," and also for them that manifest their faith in God "before the sons of men."

A faith, which is ashamed to express itself vocally before men, is not acceptable to God. He desires that we offer our worship and praise in the presence of those who may be inclined to smile superciliously at our simple trust in God. We are daily recipients of His bounty. Why not thank Him? Do you think it childish and fanatical to pause a moment at meals and express thanks for the food provided? When we realize our complete dependence on God for everything we enjoy, we shall be glad to express our thanks. We are courteous to our friends—but to God how different is the attitude of many otherwise gracious people. Will you think it over? We have a wonderful Saviour! Do you know Him?

(This book is now out of print. We are sorry we cannot fill orders for it.)

\$3 per year in Canada and foreign countries.

But now you may have 3 one-year subscriptions for \$5, in the United States.

You may have 25 or more one-year subscriptions at \$1.50 per year. That is a marvelous price for this big twelve-page Christian magazine coming 52 times a year!

If a church, or some reliable individual, sets out to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD for a year to every resident family of the church membership, then these subscriptions may be paid for at the rate of 12½¢ per month per subscription. That means that THE SWORD OF THE LORD can be sent to 100 families for only \$12.50 per month.

The above prices are good for both new and renewal subscriptions. Be sure to mark every renewal subscription so it can be added on to the present expiration date.

Please remember that Canadian and foreign subscriptions require 50¢ more per year to be added on to the above rates.

I feel that THE SWORD OF THE LORD is an ideal gift. It is the world's foremost revival weekly. We believe that it goes to more foreign countries, reaches more ministers of the Gospel, publishes more great sermons, reports more large revival campaigns, has more Bible teaching on revival, soul winning, the power of the Holy Spirit, and mass evangelism than any other Christian magazine in the world.

I have just finished paying for 150 subscriptions. That shows how much I am impressed with THE SWORD OF THE LORD as a gift.

It is a wonderful gift in that it comes in a fresh installment with every weekly issue.

It is an especially good gift for Christians in that it exalts Christ, leads sinners to be saved, stirs the hearts of Christians for holy living and soul winning.

This magazine makes a fine Christmas gift for those who do not have a great deal of money. You may send subscriptions for only \$1.50 for each one-year subscription if you send in 25 or more; or for only \$1.66 2/3¢ each if you send subscriptions in lots of three.

Another reason I like it is that I can sit down and write out names and addresses and pay for the subscription without hurried and frantic shopping to try to find something suitable. All too often I find that what I buy was not really needed, or that it was soon lost or broken. How convenient, how inexpensive, how welcome is this Christ-honoring gift of THE SWORD OF THE LORD!

#### Let Us Act Like Real Christians at Christmastime

I am determined that at Christmastime I will glorify the Lord Jesus. Isn't it a pity for Christmas to be all taken up with commercial and worldly things, and such little thought given to Jesus Christ and the Gospel, and saving souls? Well, to give THE SWORD OF THE LORD will be honoring Jesus Christ at Christmastime, as well as pleasing others and making it convenient for yourself.

#### We Send a Lovely Christmas Card Free

Yes, we will send a nice two-color Christmas greeting card announcing that THE SWORD OF THE LORD comes as a special Christmas gift from you. This is a free service to all who send Christmas gift subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Just say plainly that you want us to send a card or that the subscription is a Christmas gift, and we will send a card announcing that this thoughtful Christian

(Continued on page 8)



AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE, D.D., Litt.D., Editor and Publisher  
EVANGELIST BILL RICE, Associate Editor  
GRACE RICE MACMULLEN, Circulation Manager

#### CO-OPERATING BOARD

DR. RICHARD V. CLEARWATERS, president Conservative Baptist Association, dean of Northwestern Seminary, Minneapolis;  
DR. BOB COOK, president Youth for Christ International, Wheaton, Ill.;  
DR. M. R. DEHAAN, Radio Bible Class Broadcast, Grand Rapids, Mich.;  
DR. V. RAYMOND EDMAN, president Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.;  
DR. BILLY GRAHAM, evangelist, Washington, D. C.;  
DR. J. H. HUNTER, editor The Evangelical Christian, famous novelist, Toronto;  
DR. BOB JONES, evangelist, founder Bob Jones University, Greenville, S. C.;  
DR. BOB JONES, JR., president Bob Jones University, Greenville, S. C.;  
DR. SAM MORRIS, The Voice of Temperance broadcast, San Antonio, Tex.;  
DR. LEE ROBERSON, president Tennessee Temple Schools, pastor Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.;  
DR. MERV ROSELL, evangelist, Montrose, Calif.;  
DR. BOB SHULER, pastor Trinity Methodist Church, Los Angeles;  
DR. JACK SHULER, evangelist, Baldwin Park, Calif.;  
DR. OSWALD J. SMITH, pastor of the Peoples Church, international missionary leader, Toronto;  
DR. LOUIS T. TALBOT, Chancellor of Bible Institute of Los Angeles;  
MR. PAT ZONDERVAN, publisher, Grand Rapids;  
MR. BERNIE ZONDERVAN, publisher, Grand Rapids.

Subscription rates: \$2.50 per year, \$5 for three years. Canada and foreign countries \$3.00 a year, \$6.50 for three years.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Newton, Kansas, under the act of March 3, 1879.  
Office of Publication: The Sword of the Lord, 129 W. 6th St., Newton, Ks., or the Editorial office at 214 W. Wesley, St., Wheaton, Illinois. Please send all Correspondence and undeliverable copies to The Sword of the Lord Editorial and Executive office at 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.



Every feather is a mechanical wonder.



# Have I Done Everything I Ought to Do?

By Grace Rice MacMullen

That's a question that requires a thoughtful answer, doesn't it? "Have I done everything I ought to do?" Going out the door, you stop and think, "Have I done everything? Have I forgotten something?" That's a sentence to make a conscientious person stop and make a mental check-up. It's the wise person who makes it a practice of asking this question of himself. By checking ourselves, we avoid the cry of despair, "If only I had done more! If only I'd done what I should have done."

Christmastime is coming, and a new year after that. Christmas Eve will be full of last-minute preparations, final plans, and one more check to see that everything has been done. By beginning now, you can make it possible to answer gladly then, "Yes, everything's done!"

For the Christian, these are words of great importance, for the word "ought" is a powerful one to those who love the Lord Jesus Christ. We must constantly ask ourselves this question: "Have I done everything I ought to do about witnessing to my neighbors? Have I done all I should do to help my preacher, to support the work of my church? Have I done all I can to help get the Gospel out?"

Maybe you have done all you can do and ought to do. Most of us will have to answer, "No, I haven't. I can do more; I must do more, and by God's grace I will do more for God than I have before."

One way of fulfilling these duties of a Christian is to send subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Now is a good time to do it, because it's getting close to Christmas, the time of giving gifts. Many a person who might never read a Gospel paper otherwise would accept it from you as a Christmas gift, read it, and find blessing in it. You will be giving gifts to loved ones anyway; why not give THE SWORD OF THE LORD?

We're offering some special rates to make THE SWORD OF THE LORD especially attractive as a Christmas gift. During the next few weeks you may get subscriptions at these rates:

One 1-year subscription at regular rates, \$2.50 per year.

Three 1-year subscriptions, \$5.00.

Twenty-five or more subscriptions at special rate, \$1.50 per year. (Add 50c per year for each Canadian or foreign subscription.)

Make up your list now and take advantage of these special rates. Then when Christmas comes, you can answer that question easily, "Yes, I've done what I ought to do!"

## Special Plan for Churches

One more special offer you should think about is for subscriptions for those in your church. We are particularly anxious to have many complete church memberships receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD. We want to do this even at some sacrifice and financial

loss. If subscriptions are sent to the resident families of the church membership, either by one person or by individual subscriptions, you may use our church plan and get the subscriptions for \$1.50 per subscription per year. (You may pay for such subscriptions monthly, if you wish, at \$12.50 per month for 100 copies, 12½c per month per subscription). This would be an excellent way for giving Christmas gifts to a whole church, and pastors will find they reap additional benefits in a more spiritual, evangelistically-minded church. Or the matter may be cared for more easily by placing subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD in the church budget.

## We'll Send Christmas Cards!

We'll announce your gift subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, if you like, by sending a special Christmas card describing your gift. But we must have your instructions right away in order to notify your friends before Christmas. We'll send the cards immediately, and start subscriptions at the earliest possible moment. It's a grand way to take care of Christmas gifts to an entire Sunday School class, too!

## Don't Miss Blessings Through Carelessness!

Take care of the matter now, so that you won't have regrets later! If you do what you ought to do now, you can enjoy Christmas and look forward to a year of blessing through THE SWORD OF THE LORD for your friends. Make sure you don't say, on Christmas Eve, "Oh, I wish I had sent subscriptions!" Or much later, say, "I should have sent him THE SWORD OF THE LORD—and I didn't!" Do it quickly, won't you?

*I wonder, have I given my best to Jesus?*

*Who died upon the cruel tree?*

*To think of His great sacrifice at Calvary*

*I know my Lord expects the best of me.*

*The hours that I have wasted are so many,*

*The hours I've spent for Christ, so few.*

*Because of all my lack of love for Jesus,*

*I wonder if His heart is breaking, too?*

*I wonder, have I cared enough for others,*

*Or have I let them die alone?*

*I might have helped a wanderer to the Saviour;*

*The seed of precious Life I might have sown.*

*How many are the lost that I have lifted?*

*How many are the chained I've helped to free?*

*I wonder, have I done my best for Jesus,*

*When He has done so much for me?*

## Important Memo--

### WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS

Please report both new and old addresses directly to THE SWORD OF THE LORD five weeks before the change is to take effect. Copies that we address to your old address will not be delivered by the Post Office unless you pay them extra postage. Avoid this unnecessary expense by notifying us five weeks in advance.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD  
Subscription Dept.  
214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Ill.

## GRACE NOTES

By Grace Rice MacMullen

This summer Allan and I joined my sister and her husband, Libby and Walt Handford, for a vacation in the woods of Wisconsin. We spent a week in a cabin on a lake near Cumberland, Wisconsin. It was a wonderful time of rest and relaxation, reading the Bible and praying, fishing and rowing and eating! On Sunday morning we drove over to a nearby town to go to church, after finding the pastor was a subscriber to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. After asking directions a couple of times we found the church, and as we drove toward it the sound of a hymn came floating out to meet us. We felt right at home! We felt at home in the warm, evangelistic service, too, even though the pastor was away on vacation.

Later I thought about that music going out all over the town, and what a grand thing it is for any church to provide amplified music. In this case they had the Hammond organ wired so it was amplified from the church tower, and it really blanketed that part of town with sound! One excuse the nearby church members could never use for missing a service was: "I overslept!" I can imagine one of the ladies, rushing around to get the children off to Sunday school and the roast in the oven, saying, "Oh, my—Ann's playing her third song; I'll have to leave now or I'll be late!" And I can imagine a man who never goes to church, that one or any other, as he hears "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," finding his mind goes back to his boyhood and the sound of his mother's voice singing the faith in her heart. I know it was a welcoming sound for a stranger in town!

Some churches have expensive carillons to send out the sound; others have a special organ speaker mounted in the tower. But many others who cannot afford these things still have a strong testimony because they can use amplified recorded music. And really, blessing can come from either! It's good to use such music at other times than on Sunday, too. Here in Wheaton one church broadcasts a short chime concert of hymns every evening at 6:00. It's a blessed reminder to think of the dear Lord, to praise Him, to pray, when those hymn melodies come floating in the windows at 6:00.

These days you can get hymn recordings performed on organ, vibraharp and Celestial harp on magnetic tape. That means that any church owning a tape recorder can have this kind of ministry, too. And with record changers and electric clock-timers to start the machine, it's possible now to have a prompt, well-timed concert even though an operator for the record player must be away!

Now, in these few weeks before Christmas, is a good time to investigate this field of music and equipment. It would add a really festive air to your Christmas decorations this year, and to your Christmas program.

Maybe I should tell you about a good source for such chime, vibraharp and organ records—the Morrison Recording Laboratories. They have a long list of available hymns, including the old favorites and some newer evangelistic songs. The recordings are of the finest quality, free of surface noise and scratches, and the music is performed with beautiful artistry. They also have the new recordings to be played on tape recorders. Write for more information, if you're interested, and I'll gladly pass your request on to Mrs. Morrison. I know you'll be happy with the records; we have enjoyed listening to "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing," and another which has "Bless This House" and Humperdinck's "Evening Prayer." Of course any good records can be used, but these are especially designed for that purpose.

All it takes to broadcast music

## Dr. Bob Jones SAYS:



On my arrival home from services I found on my desk a very interesting letter from a graduate of Bob Jones University, from which I am quoting a paragraph: "This morning in my devotions I decided to make a list of my

many blessings. I began the list with 'salvation' and from there continued with many recent spiritual experiences. Before I got very far I noticed something unusual about my catalog of blessings. Then around most of the blessings—assurance, call to ministry, zeal for souls, know-how to win souls, philosophy of life, my wife, etc.—I put a bracket, and to the right I wrote these words: 'Received at Bob Jones University.' I then decided to write you and thank you for our school, Bob Jones University, and what it has meant and done for me."

## Bible Land Tour Planned for 1955



Dr. George A. E. Salstrand

A unique thirty-five day tour by air combining a visit to the Baptist World Alliance in London with a tour of Bible lands will be directed by Dr. George A. E. Salstrand of Temple Schools in Chattanooga, Tennessee, July 15 through August 18, 1955.

Anyone desiring a folder of this tour which visits the historic spots of Europe and the Middle East, spending a week in and around Jerusalem, and then coming to a five-day glorious climax amid the matchless beauties of Switzerland where Reformation history was made, may secure the same by writing Dr. George A. E. Salstrand, Tennessee Temple Schools, Chattanooga, Tenn.

from your church is an amplifying system plus a record player or a tape recorder. This is such a simple and satisfactory way of doing it that I am surprised many other churches don't utilize it. It is inexpensive and flexible and easy to maintain. It enables you to use an enormous variety of music by any number of artists, and to catch the attention of people at many levels of musical interest and education. Most churches should have a public address system, anyway, and this is just one more way to make use of it. A lively program of recorded music just before the Sunday evening service will really catch interest and can improve the crowd, too. Just try it!

Of course there is nothing nicer than carillon bells, and if you're considering this kind of program for your church, by all means investigate this field. A carillon is a set of fixed, tuned bells (or tone rods) which may be played either manually or automatically. They may actually be played by hand; but usually are played from a keyboard, now, or from the console of an organ. The sound is amplified electronically, but retains the sweet ringing quality of cast bells. Sometimes a carillon is given to a church in memory of a loved one, and what a living memorial it is that provides beautiful music for a whole church neighborhood!

There are several companies which produce carillons, each with its own particular features. You have probably seen the advertisements of the Shulmerich Carillons in THE SWORD OF THE LORD from time to time; they are fine people with a good line of instruments.

The Lord has been wonderful, to me. I am dictating this letter, on October 30, 1954, which is my 71st birthday. God has been good to me. He has spared my life to see Bob Jones University grow and prosper under divine guidance. He has paralyzed every hand ever lifted against the school. He has vindicated the spiritual emphasis of the university in the evangelistic field, in the schoolroom, in other Christian schools where our graduates are doing faithful work, and in a great many other fields. When we started this school 28 years ago, we thought we were doing right. Now we know we were right. God had a purpose in bringing into existence Bob Jones University. The university has no entangling alliance. It is operated in an independent sort of way because that was necessary for the school to do the work that God called it to do. We wish to thank all of you Christian people for your prayers. We thank you for your co-operation in turning the right kind of students to Bob Jones University. We thank you for your financial support. Remember, we are appealing to you now to support Bob Jones University financially. All the money we receive, unless it is definitely earmarked for some other purpose, is divided three ways now. We use one-third as a missionary fund for the spread of the Gospel to the ends of the earth; one-third is put into the Student Loan Endowment Fund to help pay the expenses of students who are not able to pay their own way; and one-third is put into the building fund to build dormitories in the future to provide adequate room for our students.

All of you who read this can have a part in the work, and whatever you do will be greatly appreciated and will be used carefully and prayerfully so as to do the most good possible for the most people possible. Keep praying for us, and please invest some of the Lord's money in the work of the institution. The Lord bless you.

BOB JONES, FOUNDER  
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY  
GREENVILLE, S. C.  
(Advertisement)

Another type is made by J. C. Deagan, Inc., with a patented feature which leaves out the sometimes discordant third. Still another company is the Maas Organ Company on the West Coast. If you are considering this type of installation, write to me and I will ask all three companies to send you information.

And if there should be some one (surely not a reader of THE SWORD OF THE LORD!) who is awakened some Sunday morning, unwillingly, by the sound of chimes from the church playing, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," let him ponder these revised words to that hymn:

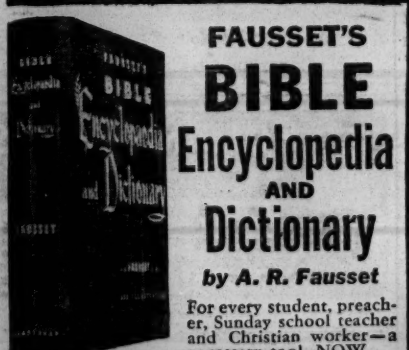
*Get up, get up for Jesus,  
Ye soldiers of the cross;*

*A Lazy Sunday morning  
Means CERTAIN harm and loss.*

*If Christians on a weekday  
Begin their work at seven,*

*They surely could on Sunday  
Start worshipping at eleven!*

## For LIFETIME Use



## FAUSSET'S BIBLE Encyclopedia AND Dictionary

by A. R. Fausset

For every student, preacher, Sunday school teacher and Christian worker—a necessary tool. NOW... get this complete Bible Dictionary and encyclopedia ALL in ONE large volume. Critical, expository and homiletical. Alphabetically arranged and indexed for ready reference.

**Says Moody Monthly**

"Probably the best 1-volume encyclopedia..."

**Says Dr. Wilbur M. Smith**

"...the most satisfactory single Bible encyclopedia ever published."

753 large double column pages; 600 illustrations; strong reinforced cloth binding, only \$5.95

At all religious bookstores or

**Zondervan PUBLISHING HOUSE**

GRAND RAPIDS 6, MICHIGAN



# WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST LLOYD BARDOWELL** recently led a good revival meeting with Rev. Truman Reeves and his church at Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania. Brother Reeves reported to the editor, "The Lord blessed with 20 decisions for Christ, 50 rededications and 5 decisions made in the home visitation program. We had 13 express their desire to unite with the church."

The pastor praised Evangelist Bardowell for his faithfulness to the Word and his dynamic preaching, but was especially impressed with his passion for the lost.

**EVANGELIST JACK YOST** of R.D. No. 2, Berwick, Pennsylvania, recently conducted a one-week revival at the Valley of Achor Baptist Church at Negley, Ohio. The pastor, Rev. Bill Koltovich, writes that 8 souls professed Christ as Saviour and 3 rededicated their hearts and lives to the Lord.

Rev. Theodore Maitland writes to tell us of the blessing Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST EDDIE WAGNER** was during a meeting at the West Lenox Baptist Church near Kingsley, Pennsylvania. During the one week there were 12 young people who accepted Christ as Saviour, 45 Christians who rededicated their lives to Christ, 98 decisions by Christians to forsake some known sin, and 16 who covenanted with God to tithe. The pastor praised Evangelist Wagner for his fearless preaching.

Brother Wagner has just completed a revival campaign with the First Conservative Baptist Church of Evansville, Indiana. During the revival, there were 13 conversions, 35 rededications and 75 to begin family altars. Rev. Dale Klint is pastor of this growing church.

Pastors who are interested in the ministry of Evangelist Wagner can write directly to him at his home address which is:

7 Quillen Avenue,  
North Little Rock,  
Arkansas.

Or you may write Evangelist Bill Rice, Director, Sword Staff of Evangelists, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

Great crowds repeatedly filled St. John's Presbyterian Church in Wellington, New Zealand, in a revival with **EVANGELIST PAUL B. SMITH** (100 Bloor East, Toronto) and Soloist Johnny Ambrose. The last Sunday of the campaign 3,000 people filled the Town Hall twice with at least 200 coming forward to trust Christ for the first time, in the final service. The complete results of the meeting are not given, but in one service more than 200 young people came forward and laid their lives on the altar for the foreign field, and already \$3,000 has been raised for foreign missionary work as a result of the campaign. The Smith-Ambrose team plan to return to New Zealand soon for three months of city-wide meetings in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.

Methodist **EVANGELIST G. P. COMER** (P. O. Box 5889, Dallas 22, Texas) and his party, Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Spencer, made history in Atlanta, Texas, where they closed a great tent revival recently. It was Atlanta's first four-week revival in eighty years! Large crowds were in attendance nightly and a daily broadcast over

KALT was heard direct from the 1,000 seat tent.

The evangelist reports, "There were a large number of conversions and reclamations with people joining the various churches and many erecting family altars and over three thousand chapters read in the Bible."

The team is now in Texarkana, Texas, after which they will go to Waco, Texas, where Evangelist Comer was pastor of the First Methodist Church for over ten years. He asks the prayers of THE SWORD readers.

**EVANGELIST HOWARD B. SMITH** of 11620 Ranchito St., El Monte, California, in a letter to the editor reports on meetings held the past few months. In revivals at the First Baptist Church, Baldwin Park, California; the Carmel Baptist Church, Baldwin Park, California; the First Baptist Church, Nogales, Arizona; and the Elsinore Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona, there were 62 conversions, 11 additions by letter, 122 rededications, 12 family altars established and 2 surrendering for full-time Christian service.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST KENNETH CHAPMAN** has just conducted a revival campaign with the First Baptist Church of Savage, Maryland. This was a one-week meeting and during this time there were 11 first-time conversions. Evangelist Chapman stopped by Washington, D. C., Monday, October 4, for a one-night service in the Boulevard Heights Baptist Church, and then flew to his home on the Bill Rice Ranch the following day.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST J. OSCAR WELLS** has just conducted a revival campaign with the First Baptist Church of Clinton, Massachusetts. Rev. Philip C. Hughey, Jr., is the pastor of this good work. Brother Hughey writes Director Bill Rice as follows:

"For the first time in over thirteen years, revival meetings were held in the church. It was the first time that God has moved in a mighty way, by His Holy Spirit, breaking down the cold conservatism of New England, and hearts were surely melted before Him. During the cottage prayer meetings, one man gave his heart to Christ and publicly confessed Him as Saviour and Lord. And from that break on, God has been pouring out blessings upon blessings... We saw 56 make a first decision for Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, more than 60 consecrations, with 17 coming for baptism and 4 by church letter."

Any interested in securing the services of Dr. J. Oscar Wells may write Evangelist Bill Rice, Director, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

**EVANGELIST FREDDIE GAGE** of Decatur, Texas, and Jimmy Snelten of Houston, Texas, led the White Settlement Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, in the greatest revival in the history of the church recently, according to the pastor, Rev. F. B. Hamilton. In the one-week meeting there were 133 additions, 88 by baptism and 45 by letter and statement with 9 other professions of faith joining other churches. There were 72 families pledging to begin family altars, 123 rededications, 40 vowing to quit the dance and 10 other decisions of various kinds, making a total of 387 decisions for Christ in the 8 days. The church has asked the team to return in 1956.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST J. OSCAR WELLS** recently held a successful revival at the Timber Lake Baptist Church near Lynchburg, Virginia. The pastor of this church with about 200 members, Rev. Robert A. Daniel, writes the editor a glowing letter of blessings received. There were 21 first-time conversions and 60 rededications.

## Introducing . . . Evangelist Peter Ruckman

Peter Ruckman was an infantry lieutenant overseas in Hawaii, the Philippines, and Japan, and was a professional disc jockey in radio before his conversion five years ago. He holds a B.A. degree, University of Alabama, and an M.A. degree from Bob Jones University. He is expecting to receive his Ph.D. this coming June. Evangelist Ruckman is a preacher and artist, and frequently illustrates his sermons with a Gospel cartoon in color. He sings and draws while he preaches frequently. Evangelist Hugh Pyle says, "Peter Ruckman is a marvelous personal soul winner and has fifteen half-hour lectures on soul winning which he uses in morning services in meetings. He has had over 800 decisions for Christ in revivals, jail services, hospital services, Youth for Christ rallies, etc. Brother Ruckman had mastered many false religions and had read multiplied thousands of books before finally coming in contact with the Bible and being soundly converted. I predict for him a wonderfully fruitful ministry in soul winning. He can be recommended to any church that wants plain powerful preaching of the unvarnished truth of God's Word. He has read the Bible through many, many times, and quotes large portions of it fluently and ac-



Evangelist Peter Ruckman

curately. When Peter Ruckman led revival services in the churches I pastored in Florida, crowds always flocked to hear him and to see his amazing chalk drawings."

Evangelist Ruckman's present address is:

Pinecrest Trailer Court  
Route 3  
Taylors, South Carolina

## \$2,897 Spent for Free Literature

New Editions of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" Ordered in Korea, Japan, Formosa, the Netherlands, and Africa

By the Editor

We have just made out checks for the spread of free literature as follows:

1. We sent \$1,000 to William Garfield of the Word of Life Press in Korea, our agent there. \$600 is to provide a new printing of 100,000 copies of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in the Korean language. \$400 is for printing the editor's pamphlet, *Hell! What the Bible Says About It*.

2. We have just mailed \$600 to Rev. Kenneth G. McVety, 346 Eifuku Cho, Suginami Ku, Tokyo,

Japan, for printing of a new edition of the "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" booklet in Japan.

3. \$600 has gone to Missionary Dick Hillis, of the Evangelical Alliance Mission at Taipei, Formosa, for the printing of 100,000 "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in Chinese, which will be done for us in Hong Kong.

4. A check for \$155 has gone to pay for printing 5,000 "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in nice booklet form in the Netherlands, at the

## Count Your Blessings!

(Continued from page 1)

*O thou Holy One of Israel. My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed. My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long: for they are confounded, for they are brought unto shame, that seek my hurt.*

How fitting that a child of God should praise Him! If praise should continually be in the mouth of David, if David's tongue talked of God's righteousness all the day long, surely we too should have it as a mark of happy, good Christians that we praise God continually!

So in Psalm 103, David, moved by the Spirit of God, exhorts himself, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." David set himself to count his blessings and to bless the Lord,

One lady was saved in her tomato patch, another was dealt with at the bottom of his well and saved in the service that night, another man past 60 was saved in his home and his wife in the road on the way to the grocery store. Both are faithful church attenders now. The last Sunday of the campaign the church set an all-time-high record attendance in Sunday School and have maintained a high average since.

**EVANGELIST JOE BROWN**, of 431 North 88th Place, Birmingham, Alabama, is a graduate of Tennessee Temple Schools, and goes out with the earnest recommendation of Dr. Lee Roberson, Dr. Mark Cambron, and others who know him. He is commended for a comprehensive knowledge of the Word, a passion for soul winning, a soundness in the faith.

praise the Lord, thank the Lord with all that was within him!

The unseen angels about us praise God. In this same Psalm the divine Spirit speaking through David commanded, "Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, harkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure." The hearts of angels run over continually with praise! Cherubim and seraphim praise Him with full hearts; I do not wonder that Heaven is full of music and song! The goodness of God is so great that these holy beings, who-know Him well, cannot but burst forth in continual praise!

Even the inanimate universe praises God. This Psalm, verse 22 says, "Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion." Another Psalm says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard" (Ps. 19:1-3). I do not ascribe personality to the stars and planets in the limitless skies. Yet the glory of God is shouted by every starry constellation, by the flaming atoms of every sun, by the intricate and mathematical perfection of the movements of every solar system, every galaxy of stars. An inanimate phonograph may play the tremendous praises of the Hallelujah Chorus, or a tiny radio may transmit the saving Gospel of God's preacher to a million ears. And as truly as that, God has made His entire creation to shout that there is a mighty God, a glorious, powerful, beneficent and holy God. If creation does not preach the Gospel, it at

lands of Rev. Albert Zijp, our friend and agent there.

5. \$200 goes to Missionary Harold Amstutz, of the Africa Inland Mission, for printing from 10,000 to 15,000 copies of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in the Bangala language in Africa.

Besides the above, we have just shipped thousands of pamphlets and a number of clothbound books, to a total value of \$322.50, to the Netherlands Gospel Center, Dr. R. H. Borkent, at the Hague in Holland. This Gospel Center does extensive missionary work in Spain, Portugal, and other European countries, and pastors and evangelists particularly plead for more of our literature.

Also we have just shipped 1,000 copies of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in English, to Missionary Gordon A. Howan, in the Fiji Islands, and offered to send more.

Also we have written Missionary Joe Weatherly, who has acted for us and for a committee of missionaries from a number of mission boards in India, printing the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in a number of dialects there. And we have asked him to tell us what is needed for immediate republication of some of the "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" translations. We promised at least \$1,000 to be sent at once.

We have had calls for many, many thousands of dollars, which we have had to turn down or delay. The money we are sending now has been requested for more than a year. There is urgent need for more money to be spent through the Sword Free Literature Fund. Will you prayerfully consider whether God wants you to send a good gift for the spread of the Gospel through the literature, through the agency of accredited, well-established foreign missionaries, sound in the faith, co-operating with other evangelical mission agencies, in some twenty languages around the world? Every gift will be acknowledged with a receipt. The money will be carefully used as directed and reports will be given from time to time through THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Please address your letters to The Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.

least shows forth the glory of God so that only a fool can deny there is a Creator, a God to whom one must give an account.

How can the redeemed child of God keep silence when the whole universe shouts the praises of God?

So, Christian, count your blessings! Like David, say to yourself, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name." See that the prayer of your lips is praise from the heart. See that all your being is involved in this holy matter of thanksgiving and glory to God! Count your blessings. "Forget not all his benefits."

This is a good time to remember the words of Rev. Johnson Oatman:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

*Are you ever burdened with a load*  
(Continued on page 5)

**FOLDING CHAIRS**  
IN Steel or Wood  
FOLDING BANQUET TABLES  
WRITE FOR CATALOGUE  
AND LOW DIRECT PRICES  
**J. P. REDINGTON & CO.**  
DEPT. 173 SCRANTON 2, PA.

**The BUY OF THE YEAR**  
SEE FREE SAMPLE  
WRITE today and get your copy of **TABERNACLE HYMNS NUMBER FIVE**. See this balanced best of soul winning evangelical numbers and traditional hymns of power and popularity, 65 more musical numbers than any other of the Tabernacle series. Surprisingly low cost. Give church and denomination and your official position. No obligation. Write NOW.  
**TABERNACLE PUBLISHING COMPANY**  
342-TAX North Waller Ave., Chicago 44, Illinois

### SAVINGS for the SAVED

Plus unique way for giving toward the Lord's work

Presto steam iron, postpaid...\$15.50

Newest Model "55" Schick "Custom" electric shaver, postpaid...\$18.75

All Merchandise New and First Quality. Money refunded if not entirely satisfied. Write for explanatory literature plus list of many items.

**THE CHRISTIAN MAIL ORDER FELLOWSHIP**  
316 Fairview Avenue  
Fairview, New Jersey  
(Owned and operated by born-again Christians)



## Count Your Blessings!

(Continued from page 4)

of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you  
are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev'ry  
doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the  
days go by.

When you look at others with  
their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised  
you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings, money  
cannot buy  
Your reward in Heaven, nor your  
home on high.

So, amid the conflict, whether  
great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is  
over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels  
will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your  
journey's end.

Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one;  
Count your blessings,  
See what God hath done.

Now let us follow the outline  
divinely given in Psalm 103, and  
let us rejoice and thank God:

1. For forgiveness of sins;
2. For our healing and bodily health;
3. For preservation of our lives;
4. For lovingkindness and tender mercies expressed through our loved ones;
5. For the daily provision of food and other necessities.

### I. Forgiveness of Sin; the Greatest of All Blessings

In the divinely-given list of blessings for which David was inspired to thank God, the first blessing named is the forgiveness of sins. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities..." Forgiveness of sins is the greatest blessing that God has ever given a mortal being.

"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities." It was this for which God gave His Son—to forgive our sins and save our poor souls. It is this for which Jesus came into the world. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." (I Tim. 1:15). Jesus said plainly, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). In all of God's plan, there is nothing else in the universe so important as forgiving men, saving men, restoring to God's fellowship men and women who are estranged from God, who are fallen from His holiness, who are become His enemies, who have been captured and ruined by sin! The forgiveness of sin is the highest aim of God.

A woman wrote to differ with this editor when in THE SWORD OF THE LORD I had published the statement that soul winning was the one thing dearest to the heart of God, the one main duty for every Christian. She said, "I think soul winning is all right, but I think that that is not the main thing. It seems to me that the main thing is to honor Jesus Christ."

She meant well, but she had wholly misunderstood the Lord Jesus Himself. The best way to honor Jesus Christ is to take upon our hearts the same burden He has for dying sinners and to help Him enjoy the rapture that will be His in future ages in seeing, saved forever, sinners for whom He died. I wrote to this woman to remind her that God was willing to turn His back on His Son, Jesus, and let Jesus die a criminal's death in public shame between two thieves, and the victim of every indignity that wicked hearts could devise, in order that sinners might be saved! Oh, how God longs to forgive sinners! And the forgiveness and salvation of sinners is first in His plan.

Just so, every Christian ought to rejoice over this blessing above all others, that his sins are forgiven, that he is saved, that he is redeemed, that he is restored to fellowship with God.

Jesus gave marvelous power to the seventy whom He sent out to witness in villages and towns whither He Himself would come. He said, "Behold, I give unto you

power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19). I do not know that God has ever given such blanket power to anybody in the universe for more than a short season of time. And these people returned with joy to tell how devils had been subject to them. But did Jesus encourage them to rejoice over miracles done, over devils cast out, over a mighty ministry? No! He said, "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

Do you, thoughtless Christian, lament that you do not have the great things of the earth? How foolish you are! Queen Victoria, monarch of Great Britain and Empress of India when the sun never set on British possessions at the highest point of England's career, yet stood to her feet during the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus, to bear homage to the Saviour. That true soul, before Jesus Christ she was glad to be only a subject. A few years ago when the king and queen of England were entertained in Washington at the White House, Chief White Feather, an American Indian Christian, was invited to sing before them. He sang, "I'd Rather Have Jesus." Later, the king of England said to Chief White Feather, "I'd rather have Jesus too!"

J. P. Morgan, multi-millionaire financier, put a boast in his will. Do you know what it was in which he rejoiced? Not in stocks and bonds, not in railroads and steamships and banks, but in the blessed truth that he had found peace and forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ and could safely risk his forgiven soul in the mercy of such a Saviour!

Oh, what a blessing to have sins forgiven!

David knew this blessing full well. If you read the fifty-first Psalm again, you will see that David knew what sin was and how it burned and hurt and damned. He could say, "My sin is ever before me." He could plead, broken-hearted for purging with hyssop for the cleansing of his heart, for the renewal of a right spirit. And David, who knew what it was to confess with heartbreak his sin, knew also what it was to praise God for forgiveness!

The Christian must praise God not only that he has been born again, that all his sins are laid on Christ, and that he is counted just and thus an entrance to Heaven is made. He can also thank God for that daily cleansing, that daily taking of sin out of the way so that his fellowship can be renewed and he can walk in the light and joy of the Lord everyday!

I would have every Christian at this Thanksgiving season stop and remind your own soul how great is the blessing of forgiveness, of salvation, and praise the Lord.

I wonder if some reader reads this and finds his heart cold, unresponsive? Then you have lost your first love, as had some in the church of Ephesus (Rev. 2:4). You have forgotten the pit from whence you were dug. How wicked, how ungrateful it is not to have hearts running over with praise for such a Saviour, for such a salvation, for such an everlasting life as the believer has in Christ! When it is time to praise God, let us not fail to praise Him for the forgiveness of our sins. And at Thanksgiving, let the most profound gratitude go out from grateful hearts to a forgiving God whose mercy is everlasting. When you name the benefits of God, remember Him "who forgiveth all thine iniquities."

### II. The Blessing of Health: Bless the Lord "Who Healeth All Thy Diseases"

Second in his list of blessings, David counted the healing of his body. He cried out for all within him to praise God for this benefit, and to bless the Lord "who healeth all thy diseases."

Do I believe in divine healing? Certainly I do! I believe that all true healing is from God. God heals through doctors, and God

heals without doctors. God uses means, and sometimes God heals without perceptible means. Sometimes God heals people through medicine and treatment of doctors, and sometimes He heals them in spite of medicine and doctors. Sometimes God heals people by simple faith, inspired by true teaching of the Word of God. And sometimes God heals people through faith, though the faith may be inspired by the preaching of some crank or quack. Yes, I believe in divine healing.

But while I believe in divine healing, I do not believe always in divine healers. I do not believe in the methods usually employed by so-called healing evangelists.

I do not believe the doctrines that are often taught by quacks and charlatans or by some sincere but misguided souls in divine healing meetings. I am sure it is not always God's will to heal the sick. Sometimes God wants people to stay sick for His glory, or for their good. Sometimes God wants a saint to die and go to Heaven. The Bible does not teach that one should always ask for healing of the body, whether it be God's will or not. The Bible doesn't teach that the use of medicine or the use of doctors is wrong.

Again, it is certainly wrong to suppose that healing of the body is the greatest boon that can come to a person. Those "healing evangelists" who make healing of the body the main thing do not have the Bible emphasis. God puts salvation first. Salvation ought to come first in the preaching and first in the advertising. So, any reader of this message must not first ask for healing and must not first thank God for healing. First, let everyone make sure of forgiveness of his sins and rejoice in that blessing of all blessings. Then let him thank God for the secondary blessing of healing of the body.

We have said the above not to be misunderstood. It was necessary, because I would not be a party to false doctrine and fanatical practice. Yet, with all my heart I thank God that He heals the sick. Among those who read are countless thousands who know that God has heard their cry and lifted them up from beds of sickness. And countless other thousands know that the baby for whom they first despaired and then for whom they prayed is now alive and well, or the mother or father or companion, who was once so low, was lifted up by the hand of God in answer to prayer.

When Jesus was on earth, in His loving compassion He often healed the sick. Do you think He has less compassion now upon His own? In New Testament times when people trusted Christ for healing, He lifted them up, as he did the paralytic borne of four and let down through the roof top in Mark, chapter 2. Do you believe that God does not now answer the prayer uttered in simple faith, for healing of the body? In James 5:13-16, we read simple instructions and blessed promises about healing:

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Let us make sure that we understand this passage. A sick person should call for the elders of his own church, not necessarily for a traveling evangelist. Those who know him and have a right to have some impression about what would glorify God in the matter, will be able to pray more nearly in the will of God than a stranger.

Notice, too, that it is "the prayer of faith" that shall save the sick; it is not the oil. Oil may be a fitting symbol of the blessed Holy Spirit who raised up Christ from the dead and who dwells in the body of the Christian and can heal the body. But oil does not heal. It is the prayer of faith that saves. If God gives the faith, one may expect the healing. If God does not give the faith, as sometimes He certainly does not, then

one need not expect the healing.

It is not always God's will to heal, and so God does not always give faith. Sometimes there is sin in the life and God will give no faith until the sin is confessed and forsaken. But in many cases there is no unconfessed sin that hinders, yet it is simply not God's will to heal the sick. We must face the simple and blessed truth that oftentimes God has something far better than healing. It is better to be sick in the will of God than to be well out of the will of God. It is better to glorify God in trouble than never to have trouble. It is better even for a Christian to die and go to Heaven and be with the Lord than to remain on earth well and strong.

So a Bible-believing Christian must pray with a heart willing to have the will of God. This Scripture does not teach, and no preacher ought ever to teach, that a Christian has a right to demand of God healing in every case. God has not promised that, and it is presumption to demand what God has not promised. One may ask with a willing, submissive heart. If God gives the faith, then one may claim the blessing. If God withholds the faith for healing, then the Christian must ask for that which is better than healing, the blessed will of God in his case.

One should notice also that it is sin unconfessed which often brings ill health. Christians should confess their faults one to another and pray one for another "that ye may be healed."

We remember that at Corinth some Christians were weak and sickly, and some had already fallen asleep, that is, had died, because of their sin (I Cor. 11:30).

No, it is not always God's will to heal the sick, but, thank God, it usually is God's will! That is easy to see when you count how many times a person may be ill and then restored to health before he dies. Surely it is usually God's will to heal the sick, and it is always God's will for us to bring the matter to our loving and wise Father and ask His blessing.

It is a matter of great joy to my own heart to recall and to witness to some wonderful healings in answer to my prayers.

When I was a lad of fifteen in the West Texas cattle country, my father fell sick. He had been solemnly warned by a specialist that he must leave all his business cares and rest for months. But he had a large family to support, had debts to pay, and felt that he could not take a vacation. And so he strained himself to the break-

ing point and collapsed. He lingered for days in a coma, growing steadily weaker. One afternoon the two doctors attending the case warned my stepmother that Dad would not live through the night. The long over-strained heart would stop beating. The light would flicker out that night!

No one had ever argued in my hearing as to whether healing was for New Testament times only, and not for today. No one had ever suggested that that was a dispensational matter, and that God had changed His way of dealing today. I had trusted Christ as my Saviour. I knew that God answered prayer. So that night, after wandering, disconsolate, with no one to take my burden to, I went out in the horse lot to the stables to pray.

As I passed the buggy shed I heard a voice. Listening, I heard my older sister sobbing in prayer that God would spare our father! I went on in the darkened stable and knelt in a stall, and there I pleaded, unashamed, that God would spare my father and raise him up.

Comforted in heart, I returned to the house, and before I went to bed I heard another voice talking. I listened; it was my stepmother kneeling by the side of the bed where my father lay unconscious. She was crying and asking God to spare her husband. What would all of us have done, a household of a wife and six children, without our father!

I very simply left the matter in God's hand and went to sleep.

But my father lived through the night. The next morning at seven, as we were gathered around his bed, he opened his eyes and looked about. He was rational, in full control of his faculties as he had not been for days. He said to my stepmother, "Mamma, where are my pants?"

Laughing and half crying, she said, "You're sick. You don't need your pants. You stay in bed and get well!"

"No, I want my pants. I have some business to attend to in town. Get me my clothes!"

So my stepmother got Dad his clothes and then hurriedly phoned for the doctors. By the time the doctors could catch a team of horses, hitch them to the buggy and drive to our house, my dad had walked two or three blocks to the store, had attended to some matter, and slowly returned. The doctors met him in front of the house and scolded him for being up.

I remember how my father said,

(Continued on page 6)

Are you missing one of the Christian's greatest blessings? You are, if you're not tithing—if you've not found the joy of giving sacrificially to God, and receiving back from Him manifold. Do you look on tithing as a burdensome duty? If so, then you need to read Dr. John R. Rice's book

## All About Christian Giving



This is not a book to get money, nor primarily an appeal to duty. This book is an offer of the blessed opportunity to see how much God can do for you as you give to Him. You will never forget the experiences told here that prove God provides for those who trust Him and obey Him about giving. Will answer your questions about how to tithe, where to give your money, the problem of "storehouse tithing," and many other important matters. Attractive new hard-case binding in two colors, just out. 13 chapters, 174 pages.

**\$1.95**

(Paper binding, 174 pages, still available at only \$1.00).

### CHAPTER TITLES:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. God Wants the Heart First                                 | 8. Christians Requires No Storehouse                                  |
| 2. The Old Testament Teaches Christians Ought to Tithe       | 9. Storehouse Tradition Harms Christians, Churches, God's Cause       |
| 3. The New Testament Teaches Tithing Also                    | 10. The Lordship of Christ Dishonored by Wrong Giving                 |
| 4. Freewill Offering to God From a Loving Heart              | 11. Giving and the Local Church                                       |
| 5. Giving Your Way to Prosperity                             | 12. Practical Questions About Giving Answered                         |
| 6. "Storehouse" Idea in Tithing Ceremonial Law for Jews Only | 13. How to Tithe  |
| 7. God's Plan for New Testament                              | 14. The Great Blessings for Christians in the Tithe and Offering Plan |

Get this Bible manual with heart-moving illustrations! It will help you to find new joy in giving!

### Order from your Christian Bookstore or

SWORD OF THE LORD PUBLISHERS  
Wheaton, Illinois

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies "All About Christian Giving" in \_\_\_\_\_ cloth  
\_\_\_\_\_ paper binding, I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_



## Count Your Blessings!

(Continued from page 5)

"No, I am not sick. I will go to bed and rest awhile, but I am not sick any more." He went back to bed until afternoon, and each day he would spend some time in bed while he slowly recovered his strength. But God had healed my father. I believe that He did it in a moment. I know He did it when the doctors said it was impossible. I know that God healed him in answer to simple, believing prayer.

Oh, praise the Lord, to whom we can go with all our burdens, and who can heal the body as easily as He can forgive sins and save the soul!

In 1926 I began a daily radio broadcast in Fort Worth, Texas. The radio was young then, and in little crystal sets all over the country, people eagerly listened for every word that could come out of the magic box, through a horn-like loud speaker, or more usually through the little ear phones on a wired plug. How people did listen to the preaching of the Gospel on those crystal sets! And the flood of letters we received!

Soon people began to write asking for prayer for their sickness. In God's mercy I was led to pray for these distressed sick people and in many, many cases God answered prayer. Some of the recoveries were almost instantaneous and a good number were remarkable. I was led to grow greatly in grace and more and more to emphasize the fact that God answers prayer.

One day our oldest daughter, Grace, then five years old, had fever and a sore throat. We gave her medicine. After some three days the fever mounted to 105. We rushed her to the family doctor. After Dr. Reeves examined her carefully he said to me, "John, I'm afraid this is diphtheria. But we will not guess about it. We will send germs from her throat

to the laboratory in this building."

He swabbed the child's throat with a cotton swab and smeared mucus on a glass slide and then rushed the glass slide to the medical laboratory. In a few minutes the telephone rang; diphtheria germs were present in abundance. The child had diphtheria and the throat was nearly closed.

The child and her little sister were given toxin and antitoxin injections. The county health officer was notified to quarantine our home, and we took our little girl home and put her to bed. Then I said to my wife, "I have prayed for others; now I am going to pray for my own. I will kneel by this bed and pray until I have perfect peace that God has heard me. Will you pray with me?"

She gladly joined in our covenant to pray until God gave assurance that He had undertaken in the matter. So I prayed and then she prayed. Then I prayed and then she prayed. We alternated for some time. Finally I said, "I have peace in my heart. I feel that God has heard our prayer. I am willing to leave the matter in His hands and thank Him." Mrs. Rice also had sweet assurance that God had heard our prayer.

That afternoon little Grace's fever went down, down, and then disappeared. She had a good night's rest. The next morning she insisted on getting up, but I told her no, that she must stay in bed. She asked, "Daddy, am I still sick?"

With choked voice I answered, "No, dear, I think you are well! But we do not want to be presumptuous. We will call the doctor. You must stay in bed until he gives you permission to get up."

"Well, may I sit up in bed, then, and play with my dollies?" she asked. I gave her permission.

The county health nurse came to check up. She found no fever, the

throat almost normal, no soreness, no pain! She said, "This child does not have diphtheria!"

I replied, "I know she does not have it now, but she did have yesterday afternoon!"

I cherish in my heart and thank God for many memories of answered prayer, many healings of the body. God has healed me and healed many others many times. So like David I can say, "Bless the Lord, O my soul...who healeth all thy diseases."

But some read this who have rarely been sick. You are in the strong health of young manhood or young womanhood. In fact, you hardly need to think of any human frailty, you are so strong, so well. Then all the more you ought to thank God. God who made you, who preserves you, who hedges you about with His mercy and power so that you are rarely sick, deserves all the praise for your good health.

How good God has been to my immediate family. These years have gone by and six daughters have reached womanhood. We have had no major illnesses. Three daughters have had tonsils removed, but there have been no other operations. Aside from maternity cases, none have ever spent a night on a hospital bed. I believe that holds true for Mrs. Rice and me through all our married life, and our six daughters, holds true for our five grandchildren and for the four sons-in-law since they have been connected with the family. We are continually being called upon to pray for others in times of great distress—accidents, operations, lingering sickness. We repeatedly thank God for answered prayer about our friends whom He raises up from beds of affliction. But I fear that our poor thoughtless hearts are not properly grateful for the sustaining power of God who has protected us so that no pestilence comes nigh our dwelling.

God's care in the midst of great labor, in the midst of much pressure, is all the more remarkable. How God has preserved us from ulcers, high blood pressure and shattered nerves! What few sore throats or mild cases of influenza or neuritis we have had have been tremendous blessings in teaching us to value the never-ceasing mercy of God. Oh, I say to my soul today, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits...who healeth all thy diseases."

When you count your blessings, be sure to thank Him for His sustaining care, his overshadowing wings of protection.

### III. God Preserves Our Lives From Death

The third blessing of which David is reminding his soul, the benefit for which he blessed the Lord continually was this: "who redeemeth thy life from destruction..." God preserves our lives day by day.

We make it too much a matter of course and do not count it, as we should, a blessing from God, that we are not cut down this day by death!

There is a blessed teaching in the Scripture that "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Ps. 34:7). God's guardian angels protect Christians day by day. Of the angels we are told, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Heb. 1:14). It is completely true of Jesus, and certainly somewhat true of every believing child of God that "he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Ps. 91:11, 12). I found that promise and the other wonderful promises of protection in the Ninety-first Psalm, when I was called into the army in World War I. Thank God, "he that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Ps. 91:1). And again, "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday" (Ps. 91:4-6). It

is true that God has a time for Christians to die. It is equally true that Satan cannot bring one of God's children to death until God consents. In the case of Job, God allowed Satan to bring great trouble, but not to touch his life. So God preserves the lives of His saints.

We may well believe that Satan so hates us that he would destroy every Christian if he could. Did he not hate Jesus? Did he not put it into the heart of Herod to kill all the babes of Bethlehem under two years old? Did not he put it into the heart of Pharisees again and again to almost stone Jesus? Did not Satan stir His own townsmen at Nazareth to try to hurl Jesus over the brow of a cliff to kill Him? And in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus was sorrowful in soul, "even unto death," and I believe that Satan would have had Him die there at the wrong time and in the wrong place, had not Jesus prayed and been answered, and His life spared until the morning when He could die in the will of God (Heb 5:7). And Satan, who hates Jesus, hates everyone of us who love the Lord Jesus.

I believe that Satan would delight to have an epidemic of small pox or bubonic plague or influenza sweep away thousands. I believe that he would delight to have atomic bombs dropped that would blot out hundreds of thousands of people including saints of God. I believe that every Christian who is an out-and-out Christian wrestles not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and the rulers of darkness. Satan would want demons to possess us. Satan would want to cut us down by insanity, by evil habits, or through evil men, or by dire accidents. But thanks be to God, He "redeemeth thy life from destruction..."

January 1, 1940, I was led of God to leave the pastorate of a beloved church in Dallas, Texas, to enter full-time, nation-wide evangelism. I remember with what heart-searching, with what holy dedication I gave myself to God. I pledged myself, at any cost, to help bring back city-wide revival campaigns, mass evangelism, in America. I believe that God accepted the little I had to offer, but which I offered with such love and prayer. I believe also that Satan hated my decision and would have gladly killed me.

About that time I was speaking in Chicago, in the Grand Opera House in services at noon, broadcast each day. God saved a good many souls and reached hundreds of thousands of people in those grand early days of the Christian Business Men's Committee of Chicago. One day I drove north on LaSalle Street. As I crossed Division Street, a light and power truck with a large pump mounted in front of the radiator, like a battering ram or a deadly weapon ran around a horse-drawn milk wagon and plunged into the side of my car. It seemed like an engine of destruction aimed by Satan to take away my life. That heavy pump crashed into the left front door of the car and crushed the door in until it rested against my side. The car was spun around on the icy street. It was very badly damaged. But, thank God, the impact which crushed the door in until it rested against my side, left not a scratch, not a blue mark, not a bruise! I was perfectly protected. I felt then and feel now that the angel of God said, "Thus far and no farther!" God would not allow Satan to kill His servant.

Another time Dr. and Mrs. Sam Morris, Mrs. Rice and I took three days off to visit Carlsbad Cavern in New Mexico. As I drove from Dallas to Stamford, Texas, where Dr. Morris was then pastor, I bought a large beautiful watermelon at Weatherford, Texas; we would eat that watermelon beside the road the next day.

But the next day there were showers of rain from time to time. When at last we decided we would eat the melon, the roadside was muddy. So we four took the melon to the tracks of the Texas Pacific Railroad which ran beside the highway, and there we cut the melon. We ate all we could hold of its red heart and sat talking of God's goodness. Suddenly I was impelled to look up. Bearing down upon us was a train roaring along

perhaps eighty miles an hour. There was no whistle, no warning. I leaped to my feet and pulled Sam Morris to his feet. Startled, he pulled his wife away. My wife sat on the culvert nearby. The train roared by within inches. A half second more and three of us would have been instantly killed. All of us felt then that God had delivered us from a malevolent Devil who hated us. He hated Sam Morris' fight on the liquor traffic. He hated my fight for the return of old-time revivals, my pressure against modernism and sin. But God delivered us. With all my heart I praised God then and praise Him now "who redeemeth thy life from destruction."

Every Christian who reads this today should devoutly thank God. His care never ceases. We sleep, we work, we pray, but never a thought that all about us are the protecting hosts of God's angels! They were around Elisha at Dothan, the chariots of God and the angels of God. They are around all who fear the Lord today. Praise His name!

When you count your blessings, be sure to remember with grateful heart the God who redeems your life from destruction and keeps you safe every day.

### IV. It Is God Who Crowns Us With Lovingkindness and Tender Mercies; Praise Him!

The fourth blessing about which David reminded his soul and for which, with all that was within him, David blessed God, was the crown of lovingkindness and tender mercies. "Bless the Lord, O my soul," said David, "who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies."

It may be here that David was inspired to mention all the various ways that God blesses a Christian out of God's lovingkindness. But, since in this passage David had already been led to praise God for forgiveness of sins, for healing of the body, and for protection from death, and in the next verse he praises God for food, I judge that here David was principally praising God for the love and kindness of friends and family.

Through many, many illustrations in the Bible it becomes clear that it is God who puts love and kindness and mercy in the heart of one person for another.

Joseph, sold into slavery and then put in prison in Egypt, found it so. "But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (Gen. 39:21). And soon Joseph was ruler and manager of the prison. It was God who gave Joseph favor in the eyes of Pharaoh, and made him ruler of Egypt.

Daniel was a teen-aged lad, carried captive into far-off Babylon, but God's lovingkindness and mercy did not fail him there, because we read, "Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs" (Dan. 1:9).

Thus we read how Nehemiah obtained favor from the king for his expedition to restore Jerusalem, how Esther was given the love and confidence of the king who held out to her the golden scepter when otherwise she would have been put to death. We read how the same king could not sleep, but read in the Chronicles how Mordecai had saved his life and how his heart was turned in favor toward this Jew, hitherto despised. We read how God knit the heart of Jonathan to David as his own soul with a love surpassing the love of women. So all the lovingkindness, all the tender mercy which comes to one in this life are simply the evidences of the loving provision of God.

On the wall of a home I saw a motto, "God could not be everywhere at once, so He made mothers." Many mothers are not what they ought to be, but we are right in believing that it is God who puts the instinctive mother-love in a woman's heart. I missed all too much of the comfort and joy a mother brings, since my beloved mother went to be with the Lord before I was six years old. But oh, in the treasured memories of childhood I hold most dear the evidences of my mother's love, of her pride in her son, of her prayers for me. And everyone who ever

(Continued on page 7)



### Life-Changing Books

By Dr. John R. Rice

#### PRAYER: Asking and Receiving

The most popular book on prayer in America—160,000 copies in print. Full of Scriptures, heart warming exposition, concrete examples from Dr. Rice's own life, it cultivates a believing, expectant attitude to receive from God. Twenty-one chapters on every phase of prayer—hindrances to prayer, praying through, healing, miracles, the sin of prayerlessness, praying in the will of God, praying for everything you need and want. Will transform your prayer life! 328 pages, cloth, \$2.50.



#### THE HOME: Courtship, Marriage, and Children

A practical Bible manual on the home. Answers the problems of young people anticipating marriage, discusses carefully and scripturally the relationships of husbands and wives. Gives specific, detailed advice on rearing children for the Lord. Dr. Rice writes from a wealth of experience as pastor and counsellor—and father of six. He speaks with authority, because he teaches straight from the Bible.

Sunday School Times recommends, "One of the best and most complete discussions of these topics from the Bible viewpoint." Cloth, 381 pages, 22 chapters, \$2.50.



#### The Power of Pentecost

This book will transform the lives—literally—of many Christians who desperately need power. Fifteen thrilling chapters including: The Lost Secret: The Usual Work of the Spirit; Jesus, Filled with the Spirit; Misunderstood Pentecost; Empowered Witnessing; Bible Terminology; Ministry Gifts in Old Testament and New; Speaking with Tongues; Power for Every Christian; How to Be Filled; Prayer a Condition; Why Persistent Praying Is Necessary; Do You Really Want to Be Filled?; How Great Soul Winners Were Filled; Claim Your Blessing! 441 pages, cloth binding, \$3.00.



AT CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORES or  
Sword of the Lord Publishers  
Wheaton, Illinois



## Count Your Blessings!

(Continued from page 6)

had a pure, good mother, a godly mother who poured out her love as a sweet perfume over her family, should thank God for that lovingkindness. When you count your blessings, be sure to remember a mother's love.

And God, who wants Christians to call Him "Our Father," made a father's heart. God wanted some way to manifest His own heart, so he made fathers. He said, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him" (Ps. 103:13).

It is amazingly clear, as one begins to really count his blessings, that all the good ones are beyond price, are greater than money could buy. You may thank God for whatever prosperity He has given you, but I assure you that money and great property are not the greater blessings. They are not even named in these five wonderful blessings summed up in our text in Psalm 103:1-5. God has

something far better for our happiness and welfare than wealth.

Sometime ago I was thinking about the limited and restricted life of a young farmer I met. He had little education. He was in a provincial community and would probably never be heard of beyond the small community in which he lived. His house was small and plain. His life included hard work and a boring routine of chores. But then I reflected; he had a wife who was young and beautiful. She was not only radiant in face and beautiful in form, but she was modest, natural, unspoiled. She delighted in her home, her children. Her house was spic and span. She loved her husband with a constant outpouring of service, admiration and delight. Her greatest desire in the world was to make her husband happy. I looked on the poor young fellow with wife and children and thought, "How blessed he is!" The richest man in the world could not have a more beautiful wife nor rejoice in a love more pure and unselfish and sweet! No king on a throne could have healthier, happier, more beautiful children, nor better taught and better mannered. That young farmer was not poor. He was rich beyond expression. God had flooded his life with "lovingkindness and tender mercies."

And every man who has the love of a good wife ought, at this Thanksgiving season, to rejoice and praise God for such a crowning joy!

In God's mercy, I have been given six daughters. I loved them passionately when they were little children. If possible, I love them more now. Not one of them but that I sometimes bathed and usually fed when I was at home, corrected them, entertained them, taught them. The baby's high chair always sat by me at the table. I carefully drilled them so that the first consecutive sentence each could say would be, "I love Daddy." One of them always, when I carried her, held on to my ear which is big enough for a good handhold. Another always held on to my tie. Now the youngest is seventeen. A few years ago I said to Mrs. Rice, "I have been accustomed for twenty years to having a little girl in my arms, holding to my ear or to my tie, or spitting down my back, or spilling milk on me at the table. I need a baby!" That hunger is now partly fulfilled by grandchildren. But I can speak on good authority when I say that any man who has had the tiny hand of a baby gripped around his finger, a little face looking up into Daddy's and asking questions and believing every answer was gospel truth, little feet running to meet Daddy when he came home at night, and little arms around his neck and warm wet lips kissing his face in greeting, has worn the crown of a king! Oh, the crowning glory and the lovingkindness and tender mercy that God gives every man to whom He gives faithful and sweet children!

God has given many friends. Of

course I have enemies and I thank God for them. Any man who takes a stand plainly, sharply, aggressively for the fundamentals of the faith, any stand against sin and worldliness and formalism and modernism, is certain to be hated and opposed. I thank God for my enemies. But how I do thank God for friends! Literally thousands of Christians write me for counsel and follow my advice. More than once I have had letters that said, in effect, "I am engaged to be married to a certain person. Here are the circumstances. Should I go through with our marriage plans? I will do exactly what you say." There are multitudes who want to read every book I write, many who pray for me, love me, encourage me. For them I thank God. They are an expression of the loving mercy and kindness of God!

It is said that when God had Saul anointed to be king, "there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched" (I Sam. 10:26). Oh, what agony and defeat and frustration would be the part of any preacher if God called him to preach and called no one to hear! If God called a man to write and called no one to read! If God called a man to warn and called no one to heed his warning!

In counting my blessings, I know that I, for one will count strongly and with profound gratitude the lovingkindness of God who has crowned me with the love and mercy of thousands who have some way been led to love me and comfort me and encourage me. O Christian, bless the Lord with all that is within you and forget not all His benefits. Bless the Lord "who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies."

### V. Bless the Lord "Who Satisfieth Thy Mouth With Good Things"

Some Christians consider themselves altogether too spiritual, too other-worldly to pay much attention to the simple blessing of food. But David thanked God for this blessing. He counted it among the wonderful things to be treasured in heart and for which his whole soul should bless the Lord. And so should we!

It is altogether right and proper that at Thanksgiving time there should be a feast with turkey and dressing or "stuffing." (The best dressing is made with Southern corn bread and with chopped onion and sage!). I believe in the festive cranberry sauce, the pumpkin pie.

The Jews were taught to keep feasts: the feast of tabernacles, the passover feast, for example. When, under Nehemiah's leadership, the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt and the gates were set up and the law of God read and explained to the people, the people wept over their sins. But we read:

"And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength."—Neh. 8:9, 10.

There is certainly a time for fasting, a time for mourning and sackcloth, a time for waiting on God and confessing of sins. Christian people do too little of that, I am sure. But it is equally true that there is a time to "eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared."

The blessed time when all the redeemed of all ages will be caught out to meet Christ in the air and will be assembled in Heaven, we will have a feast. It is illustrated in Matthew 22:1-10 by the parable which Jesus gave of "a certain king, which made a marriage for his son." Again, when someone, sitting with Jesus at a feast, said, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God" (Luke 14:15), Jesus gave the parable of the great supper to which all are invited.

And the dear Lord Jesus came to enjoy the great feast made for Him in Bethany at the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus.

We are told that He ate with Simon, the Pharisee, and again that Matthew, the publican, made a great supper for Jesus and invited other publicans and sinners to hear Him. And Jesus seemed to enjoy the wedding feast at Cana of Galilee, and there He turned the water into wine.

It is true that the dear Lord Jesus was more concerned about soul winning than with food. When the disciples wanted Him to eat after He had won the woman at the well of Sychar in Samaria and waited to preach to others coming to Him, He said, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of" (John 4:32). The wicked charge that Jesus was a glutton and a wine bibber was not true, but it showed that Jesus delighted in good food and in fellowship around the table. So we do well to have feasts at Thanksgiving and Christmas and other times, and rejoice in the Lord over His goodness!

Did you ever think that the dear Saviour, the Creator, planned every article of food available on the earth? One of the best evidences of the folly of the evolutionary guess as an explanation of the origin and nature of this universe, an evidence for direct creation as the Bible teaches, is the fact that God has supplied the answer to every physical need. Who but a personal God would make lungs and make air for the lungs to breathe? Who put a personal, intelligent, and benevolent God could fit the earth so exactly for human habitation, foreseeing the proper temperatures for life, the proper atmosphere for breathing, plants to make oxygen for animals, animals to make carbon dioxide for plants? How could it be accidental that the mass of earth controlling the weight of all on it would be matched by the necessary muscles of man and beast? A thoughtful and loving God prepared sound for ears and ears for sound. He prepared the nose for odors and odors for the nose. He prepared the eyes for colors and prepared colors for the eyes.

So all the infinite variety of fruit available on the earth has been created by the plan of God. He put the color and tang and texture in every fruit and berry and melon. He put the taste and the proteins in the beefsteak, the amino acids and the calories in the pork chops. He put the vitamins and the roughage and the tremendous energy of starch in the wheat grain, and the health and goodness in every salad. I think that the dear Lord Jesus, with an infinite delight, rejoiced to take pains to make every food good for the body and pleasant in looks and odor and taste. He did not people the fathomless ocean with fish without planning what would be good for man's food. Since "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17), we know that food is the love gift of God to His people. Every Christian should receive every meal with the same delight and gratitude felt by a girl in love who receives an enormous box of chocolates from her sweetheart.

So let every one who counts his blessings think of the unfailing favor of God who, day after day, has supplied food to satisfy the body, to delight the heart.

How fitting that, with bowed heads and reverent hearts, every home at mealtime should thank God for the food. What wicked ingratitude it is to eat like pigs with both feet in the feed trough, without a heartfelt thank-you to the Giver of every good and perfect gift!

We are told in the Bible that it is the work of "seducing spirits and doctrines of devils," when cults command people "to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." God explains, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer" (I Tim. 4:1-5). How far the Roman church is wrong in forbidding Catholics to eat meat on Friday or during Lent. How far Seventh-Day Adventists go wrong in encouraging people to keep the ceremonial laws of the Jews as to food! For

every creature of God is good, provided it be received with thanksgiving! And the Word of God and prayer at mealtime sanctify the food and make it suitable, fitting, holy, in God's sight!

It seems to me that every Christian ought to thank God for food at every meal, whether at home or abroad. While at a restaurant, two Christians may bow their heads together and one of them softly give thanks to God. If one eats alone and in a public place, he can, without being unduly conspicuous, bow his head in humble and fervent thanks to the God who gives him every good thing. God is not embarrassed to give you your food in the presence of gainsaying worldlings; why should you be ashamed to thank Him in their presence?

Little children ought to be taught always to be thankful for their food. The first prayer my babies ever learned was, "Jesus, we thank You for this breakfast food." Sometimes when a child was late in getting to the table and did not get to bow her head and hear the prayer of thanksgiving, the little one would break into tears of disappointment.

I suggest that every reverent heart stop now, wherever you are, and thank God for all the years that He has provided food and drink and other ordinary but necessary comforts of life for which we do not thank Him enough.

### Conclusion: What Shall a Christian Do About These Many Blessings?

Now that you have reviewed in your mind your many blessings, what will you do about it? Let me suggest some things you can do.

1. By all means set aside a time when your heart can pour out praises of thanksgiving to such a good God and such a wonderful Saviour! Do not be content with a general feeling of gratitude. Be particular and definite as you recount your blessings and thank God for them one by one.

2. Plan now to take the first opportunity to publicly thank God for all He has done for you. Plan to give Him glory as you speak to individuals. Plan to lead your family in regular, frequent, open praise to God for His loving kindness.

3. Since God has been so good, one should dwell upon His blessings until his heart is happy and content. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God" (Ps. 43:5). To dwell upon your blessings will multiply them. To acknowledge your blessings and to be grateful in heart will certainly bring happiness and contentment. Every Christian has enough blessings to make him shout aloud the praises of God if his appreciative heart counts these blessings and properly rejoices in them.

4. The fact that God has been so wonderfully good in the past is evidence that God is on the giving end. Therefore, past blessings should encourage Christians to ask for more. David said, "Because he hath inclined his ear to me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live" (Ps. 116:2). Again David said, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord" (Ps. 116:12, 13). Counting your blessings will be a tremendous encouragement to pray.

5. Now that you have counted your blessings, "name them one by one" and, since it has surprised you what the Lord has done, see that it makes your love and obedience abound. Jesus properly said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:25). I should

(Continued on page 9)

## TENTS TOWARD THE SUNRISE

by Charles W. Koller



Brief messages with rich seeds of practical Christianity! Inspiration and guidance for personal life, church administration, preaching. A book for every Christian concerned with responsibilities of church and faith. "For a devotional book it has no superior and few equals. It is down-to-earth in its applications, but up to heaven in its view. People need it."—Earle V. Pierce... \$2.00

Order from Your Bookseller or  
**THE JUDSON PRESS**  
 1703 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Something Brand New in Gospel Singing!

## THE MELODY-AIRE SERIES

Singing as you like it—a fresh new series of gospel songs compiled by John Peterson, composer of "Over the Sunset Mountains," "It Took a Miracle" and other song and choruses.

Melody-aire Series—Low Voice No. 1 featuring "No One Understands Like Jesus" and other songs **60c**

Melody-aire Series—Solos and Duets No. 1 featuring "Over the Sunset Mountains" and other songs **60c**

Melody-aire Series—Choruses No. 1 featuring "Lord of All" and other songs **35c**

Another MOODY PRESS first!

AT YOUR LOCAL CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

## BERKELEY VERSION of the NEW TESTAMENT

By Gerrit VerKuy, Ph.D., D.D.

"Truly helpful and reverent" says one Bible scholar. There is a freshness, culture and realism to this translation, makes Bible more understandable. "AN HONEST, NOBLE WORK" ... so declares Moody Monthly.

"The best modern English translation of the New Testament that has come into my hands," says Dr. William Hendrickson.

Brief non-doctrinal footnotes clarify the text. Convenient pocket size—3-7/8 in. x 5-1/2 in. Strongly bound, heavy Bible end papers, attractive jacket. Now in 6th Edition, \$2.50.

Note: Watch for the "Berkeley Version of the Old Testament" soon to be announced.

Order from your Bookstore or Direct  
**ZONDERVAN Publishing House, Grand Rapids 6, Mich.**

TWO COMPANION BOOKS TO THE BIBLE

## Halley's Pocket Bible Handbook

19th Edition, 160 Photos and Maps. Size 4x6x1 1/4 inches  
 An ABBREVIATED BIBLE COMMENTARY: with notes on every book, in the Bible, Archaeological Discoveries, How We Got the Bible, and an Epitome of Church History. There is nothing published, of its size, that has anything like as much practical Bible information.

Book OF A Lifetime...FOR A Lifetime  
 Loved alike by Young and Old

Especially valuable for S.S. Teachers and Bible Students  
 Widely used in Colleges and Seminaries  
 Highly commended by leading Magazines and Ministers  
 (Full particulars sent on request)

768 Pages Cloth Bound **\$2.00**  
 Order from your Book Store, or H. H. Halley • Box 774 • Chicago 90, Illinois

## Best Bible Verses

Second Edition. Compiled by HENRY H. HALLEY

Author of "Pocket Bible Handbook"

In Two Parts:

Part I: Verses from Each Book of the Bible  
 Part II: Verses Grouped under Various Topics

Most Precious Words in human language.  
 Sweetest Words ever heard by mortal ears.

Best Loved Words of the Best Loved Book in all the world.  
 God's Own Words. Beautiful Words. Soul-stirring Words.

Wonderful Words. Glorious Words. Heavenly Words.  
 Words of Life. Words of Power, Timeless, Eternal.

Words We Read, and Re-Read, and Never Tire of Reading.  
 All Grouped together in this little book, for convenient use.

Beautifully Printed on Fine Quality Thin Bible Paper.  
 648 Pages Cloth Bound **\$2.00**

## Fly to the Bible Lands

In a 35-day tour via  
**The Baptist World Alliance**  
 July 15-Aug. 18, 1955  
 For Information Write:

## Temple Tour to Bible Lands

c/o Tennessee Temple College  
 Chattanooga, Tennessee



# Get This Tremendous Book

# FREE!

You may have this practical book FREE telling you how to be a soul winner, if you join the Sword Book Club now.

## Personal Work in Soul Winning

by R. A. Torrey

Here is by far the most practical book on personal soul winning in print. You will come away from this book compelled to believe that God wants YOU to be a soul winner for Him. But better than that, this book tells you exactly HOW to do the job. Here are no vague theories but sound practical help.

The first four chapters deal with the importance of personal work, the conditions of success, where to do it and how to begin. Then there are 10 chapters giving the Scriptures to use with different kinds of people and how to answer their particular problems. The last chapter gives hints and suggestions for soul winning.

You may have had problems in trying to win Roman Catholics, Jews, atheists, skeptics, and scoffers to Christ. Here in the most practical and complete form possible is your answer. For instance, in the chapter "Dealing with Those Who Have Difficulties," Dr. Torrey has listed 27 of the most common excuses that people give for not trusting Christ. He lists the Bible answers for those who say, "I cannot hold out," "I am too great a sinner," "The Christian life is too hard," "I have no feeling," etc.

There is hardly a problem that Torrey does not answer in this tremendous book.

Remember, it is yours FREE if you join the Sword Book Club now. Full details and a handy coupon are included below. Why not mail the coupon TODAY and get the full blessing of this powerful book. This book has 176 pages, sells continually for \$2. This has probably been the most useful book on personal work in soul winning ever printed. You may have it free when you buy your first selection in joining the Sword Book Club.

## Choose Your First Club Selection From These Books!

**Peace With God** by Billy Graham. By far the most popular book by this famous young evangelist. Every Christian will want to read this 222-page book dealing with how to find peace with God and the results of finding it. Covers Sin, Judgment, The Devil, Repentance, Faith, Assurance of Salvation, The New Birth, the Christian and the Church and much more. \$2.50

**Cruden's Complete Concordance.** D. L. Moody recommended, "Next to the Bible I advise you to get Cruden's Concordance." The concordance is the Bible student's most important working tool. Enables you to find any principal verse in the Bible. Lists Scriptures with the same word, refers to other Scriptures with similar words. More than 200,000 references to both King James and American Standard versions. 783 pages. \$3.50

**Prayer—Asking and Receiving** by Dr. John R. Rice. This book is so practical and simply written that anyone can read it and really learn to get his prayers answered. Learn what the Bible says about fasting and prayer, praying through, what things to pray for. Let this book revolutionize and transform your prayer life! 160,000 copies in print. 328 pages. \$2.50

**Stories to Tell Boys and Girls.** Compiled and edited by Al Bryant. Here are 33 wholesome stories for the children's hour. Graphical, simple language and a good lesson make them ideal for reading aloud to your children. They will make a profound spiritual impression on children from pre-school age on up. 192 pages. \$2.50

**Twelve Tremendous Themes,** by John R. Rice. New revised edition. Great doctrines of the Bible explained in simple, colorful language. Many Scriptures, and warm evangelistic appeal. Twelve big chapters, 249 pages. \$2.50

**Christ and the Inheritance of the Saints** by Thomas Guthrie. Tremendous sermons from the book of Colossians by one of the greatest preachers of the nineteenth century. Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., says, "To my mind, no book on Colossians . . . comes anywhere near Dr. Guthrie's either in power or in scope." 344 pages. \$2.50

**The Home: Courtship, Marriage and Children.** A Bible manual of 22 chapters on every phase of family life. Here is a frank yet chaste discussion of every sort of home problem by Dr. John R. Rice. All 381 pages fairly bristle with practical illustrations and helpful suggestions. \$2.50

**Thine Is the Kingdom.** Follow Inspector MacKellar as he foils the plans of a ruthless communist spy-ring in this absorbing Christian novel of danger and intrigue in northern Ontario. First prize-winner in Zondervan Publisher's \$5,000 Second Annual International Christian Fiction Contest. By J. H. Hunter. 288 pages. \$3.00

**With Christ After the Lost,** written by Dr. L. R. Scarborough and revised by Dr. E. D. Head. An excellent text for soul winning and evangelism classes. Wonderful Scripture illustrations and help for those who would be soul winners. Very popular in Southern Baptist circles. Every pastor who earnestly wants to win souls should have a copy. 291 pages. \$3.00

**Christian's Secret of a Happy Life,** by Hannah Whitall Smith. Reveals that a life of



Dr. R. A. Torrey

Dr. Torrey was regarded by multitudes, during his lifetime, as at the very top in soul winning. Bible teaching, and the training of Christian workers. He was selected by D. L. Moody as the superintendent of Moody Bible Institute, where he set up the Bible Institute curriculum and made Moody Institute a pattern for Bible institutes around the world.

After Moody's death, Dr. Torrey and Charles M. Alexander held the largest campaigns in America and then went around the world, winning hundreds of thousands of souls in great campaigns in Australia, in New Zealand, in the British Isles.

This book, *Personal Work in Soul Winning*, is one of Torrey's most practical and helpful books.



victory over sin is the privilege of every Christian and it unfolds the way in which that victory becomes our possession. Nearly 2 million copies sold. 248 pages. \$2.00

**The Coming Kingdom of Christ,** by John R. Rice. New revised edition of this great and popular book on the second coming of Christ, the regathering of Israel, judgment of the nations, Christ's reign on earth, the rapture of the saints; corrects false teaching about signs; shows Jesus may come at any moment. 202 pages. \$2.00.

## Wait!

The Sword Book Club is a Christian service offered to help the best Christians who need the service and appreciate it. Please do not join this book club unless you are a good, reliable Christian who will cooperate fully with the book club. Please read the rules at bottom of this page very carefully. We furnish the Book Club News FREE every month so you can decide whether you want the first selection or other alternates that are offered and know what are the best new books available. We pay the postage FREE on all books bought through the book club. (If you buy books without joining the book club, we must require you to pay 15c postage and packing charges.) We give this fine clothbound book, *Personal Work in Soul Winning*, by Dr. Torrey FREE when you join. With every fourth selection or alternate you buy from the Sword Book Club you get another fine

dividend book absolutely FREE. We cannot go to the expense and trouble of furnishing this service and these savings except to good Christians who mean business, who will send in the substitution-rejection blank promptly when they do not want a book or when they want any book besides the main selection offered; who will agree not to return any book to us without special permission; and who will pay for every book promptly when it comes, at the very latest within seven days after it is received, without waiting for a bill. The Sword Book Club has no credit policy. We cannot send bills. Books must be paid for from the invoice enclosed. 25c extra will be charged every time we have to send a bill. Don't join the Sword Book Club unless you are a sincere, steady Christian who needs Christian literature and will help us to save you the money and get you the books you need.

Clip and Mail this Coupon

### Buy One—Get One Free

SWORD BOOK CLUB  
Wheaton, Illinois

Please send me Dr. R. A. Torrey's helpful book, *Personal Work in Soul Winning*, as my Free Membership Gift book. Send as my first Book Club Selection the book checked below. I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Peace with God</b> by Billy Graham. \$2.50                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Christ &amp; the Inheritance of the Saints</b> by Thomas Guthrie. \$2.50                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cruden's Concordance.</b> \$3.50                            | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>The Home: Courtship, Marriage &amp; Children.</b> \$2.50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prayer—Asking and Receiving</b> by Dr. John R. Rice. \$2.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>With Christ After the Lost</b> , written by Dr. L. R. Scarborough and revised by Dr. E. D. Head. \$3.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Stories to Tell Boys and Girls.</b> \$2.50                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Christian's Secret of a Happy Life</b> , by Hannah Whitall Smith. \$2.00                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Thine Is the Kingdom.</b> \$3.00                            | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>The Coming Kingdom of Christ</b> , by John R. Rice. \$2.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Twelve Tremendous Themes.</b> \$2.50                        |   |

Enroll me as a member of the Sword Book Club and send me the Sword Book Club News each month, so I can decide whether I want the next month's selection. My only obligation is to buy four regular selections or alternates a year, and to pay within 7 days for all books I allow to come to me. That I faithfully promise to do. For each four books I purchase I will receive a Free Bonus Book. I may resign my membership at any time after buying four books.

Mr.  
Mrs.  
Miss.

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

## A Tremendous Book Offer You Can't Afford to Miss!

For 9 years the Sword Book Club has been selecting the very finest Christian books for its members AT TREMENDOUS SAVINGS IN MONEY AND TIME. How many times have you bought a highly advertised book which turned out to be a terrible disappointment? Here is a plan that can end these disappointments for you.

### How the Sword Book Club Operates

Each month our panel of seven famous judges select from the recent Christian books their choice of the finest and most needed book. This book is then carefully described along with alternate books in the Sword Book Club News—your monthly preview folder. You then decide whether you want the main selection, an alternate described in the Club News—or NO BOOK AT ALL! Your only obligation is to take 4 books each year from the more than 60 books offered in a year. If you want the month's first selection you do nothing; it will come automatically. If you do not want it or want an alternate selection you return the rejection slip we send. With every 4th book you buy you get another free dividend book. All books you allow to come are to be paid for in 7 days. You may cancel your membership at any time after you have purchased a total of four

books, or continue as a member and receive a FREE DIVIDEND BOOK with each 4th book you buy. You not only get all of the help of the judges in choosing the books for your library, but you also get 1 book free for every 4 books you buy.

### Why We Make This Offer

We are sure you will agree with our more than 5,000 present Book Club members that this is America's best Christian book-buying plan. Therefore as an inducement to you to try it and see, we offer you Torrey's practical book, *Personal Work in Soul Winning*, FREE with your first selection from the nine books listed above. You are bound to find your taste in books satisfied by the wide selection of Bible study books, biographies, fiction and children's books offered.

### MAIL COUPON

But you cannot appreciate all of the advantages of being a member until you try it! Here is your golden opportunity to join today, and begin enjoying all the privileges of membership. Just clip the coupon, choose your books and send it TODAY with check or M. O.—before you forget.

## ...Christmas Gifts

(Continued from page 2)

gift was sent as a token of friendship from you.

If you want the first issue of your Christmas gift subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD to arrive by Christmas, be sure that we receive the subscription by December 1. But if we receive the subscription by December 10 we can still send the Christmas card in adequate time to say that the gift is on its way. Hurry, and do not let your loved ones and friends be disappointed.

## 12½¢ a Month When Sent to All the Resident Families of a Church

Christmastime would be a wonderful time to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to all the families in your church. Sometimes church boards get together and decide that the small expense involved will repay itself many times over in the enlistment and spiritual growth of members when THE SWORD OF THE LORD is sent to every resident family in the church. A number of churches have been transformed by this plan. Sometimes the pastor will lead in the matter. Sometimes other spiritual Christians who see the need will bring the matter up. Sometimes a men's Bible class, or the young people's society will take this as a special project. It may be that one good Christian would be willing to pay for THE SWORD OF THE LORD for every resident family in the church.

Here is our plan. If someone undertakes to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to every resident family in the church, you may have subscriptions at the rock-bottom rate of \$1.50 per year. Or the church treasurer may send a check each month, and in that case the rate will be 12½¢ per month per family. One hundred families would thus get THE SWORD OF THE LORD for \$12.50 per month. An individual may take on the subscriptions with this plan. Let us hear from you.

Of course you will send full names and addresses and the papers would go directly to them each week.

If you are interested you could probably get sample copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD and show them in a church service or at a committee meeting and get others to join you in sending THE SWORD to every family in the church.

In many cases the church might like to have a "Sword of the Lord Sunday" when the pastor, or some other suitable person, would give a five-minute talk on the benefits of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, would give out sample copies to all who wish them, and would appoint someone to take subscriptions and send in the money and the names.

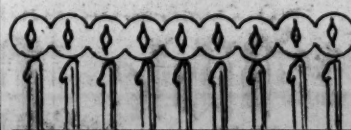
## But Everybody Can Send at Least 3 Subscriptions for \$5

It may be that you cannot send 25 or more subscriptions. But nearly every reader of this paper will know at least 3 homes or families to whom you hope to give Christmas presents. Practically every reader could send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to three homes as a Christmas gift for only \$5. (In Canada and foreign countries \$6.50 for 3 one-year subscriptions.)

Please rush your subscriptions. There will be a flood of them just before the Christmas holidays, so let us have the names and addresses as soon as possible, with your accompanying check or money order. Will you hurry?

Address The Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.

## AN IDEAL BIRTHDAY GIFT



A friend having a birthday? That's the ideal time to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD. We'll send a lovely two-color birthday card, announcing your gift.

Look over your birthday list now and see who would enjoy a year of THE SWORD OF THE LORD! Only \$2.50 in the U. S. A., \$3.00 for Canadian or foreign subscriptions.

**Sword Book Club -- Wheaton, Illinois**



## Going Home

(Continued from page 1)

prison break. What magic images we conjure up. Home. Loved ones. Childhood scenes. Friends of long ago. Busily memory's fingers paint pictures on the canvas of our heart.

*"So it's home again, and home again, and home again for me. My heart is turning homeward, and it's there I long to be."*

I am dreaming of a white Christmas. When I remember that my six boys have never built a snowman, or thrown a snowball, or tracked a cottontail rabbit through fresh snow, I feel queer inside. Won't the six and their sister be a gang to watch in a world all new?

God planted that love for home in the human heart. Better still, He has spoken to us about the Home of the soul. He has revealed what every man and woman ought to take into account, that:

*"This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through."*

### The Fact of That Eternal Home

Heaven is not a dream or a fancy. It is a home prepared by Jesus Christ for all who have trusted in Him. As our Lord prepared to leave this earth, He said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

The Bible gives many facts about Heaven. But if it told me no more than the words just quoted, I would know it is a marvelous place. Think of it. A place for me, fashioned by the hands of Jesus Christ. I am so glad I have trusted Him as my Saviour.

Pepper Martin, the Cardinal's World Series hero, was asked, "What is your ambition?"

He replied, "My ambition is to go to Heaven."

His questioner guffawed, "You want to play a harp, eh?"

Pepper Martin answered, "Mister, I don't think that's funny... If there's anything wrong in reading the Bible every day and believing what's in it; if there's anything wrong in a man wanting to go back to the soil and live the plain life of a farmer; if there's anything wrong in raising vegetables and loving animals; if there's anything funny about wanting to go to Heaven when you die—then I'm afraid life isn't worth living."

Heaven is a place prepared for a prepared people. No man or woman, no matter how good or seemingly worthy, will enter Heaven unless in this life he has turned from his sin to Jesus Christ. Not only so, but no unregenerate man or woman would enjoy Heaven.

I think it was Moody who told the fable of the crane that was feeding on snails at the waterside when a great white swan flew down and alighted nearby. The crane stretched out his long neck and asked the swan, "Where have you come from?"

"From Heaven," answered the swan.

"From Heaven?" said the crane. I never heard of that place. Is it far from here?"

"Oh, yes."

"Is it better than this place?"

"Oh, yes. Much better."

And the swan began to describe the glories of Heaven, its lakes and rivers, its flowers, its climate. The old crane listened carefully. Finally he asked, "Are there snails there?"

Indignantly the swan answered, "Such repulsive things are not permitted in Heaven."

"Very well," said the crane, "you keep your Heaven. I don't want it. I want snails."

That fable contains a great truth. No unconverted man can understand the real value of Heaven. Without a new heart and new desires, a man would find Heaven to be as Hell. To prepare for Heaven it is necessary to turn from all known sin and trust in Jesus Christ. The Bible tells of the traitor, Judas, going "to his own place." Elsewhere, it says of that wonderful mother, Hannah, and her husband, "And they went unto their own home." Your decision about Jesus will determine your destiny.

### Family and Friends in That Eternal Home

God wants to save families. Household salvation is a wonderful thing. Father, Mother, I ask you in Job's words, "Wilt thou believe him, that he will bring home thy seed?" Live for God and cry to Him to save your precious children.

How comforting is the promise made by God's messengers to the harlot Rahab. "Bind this line of scarlet thread in the window... and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household home unto thee." Let us plead the merit of the crimson blood of Christ for every one of our loved ones.

What friendships will be ours in Heaven. Think of talking with prophets and martyrs! We will ask Daniel about his night in the lion's den. The three Hebrew youths will tell of their test in the fiery furnace. Jeremiah and Isaiah who wept and sang and waited for the vindication of the righteousness of God will be our intimate companions. Oh, the glory of it!

Redeemed folks will be there from jungles and deserts, from tropical islands and snowy Siberian wastes. They will come from every kindred and tongue and people and nation. But all will have something in common with that soldier boy, dying in Egypt. He asked an American lady to sing. The sun's rays were slanting down on the yellow waters of the Nile. She sang,

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river.  
Gather with the saints at the river,  
That flows by the throne of God.*

When the song was ended the lady looked into the bright face of the lad—he was not over twenty—and said, "Will you be there?"

"Yes, I'll be there through what the Lord Jesus has done for me," he answered, his blue eyes shining. Then he died.

Only two kinds of people leave this world. There are those who have been redeemed through their personal trust in Jesus Christ. And there are those who have never repented of their sins, never put their trust in Him.

Voltaire, the French atheist, lost no opportunity to scoff at religion. Once when he was dining with the King of Prussia, he said, "I would sell my place in Heaven for a Prussian dollar."

"Mr. Voltaire," said a stout bergomaster, "in Prussia we never buy costly goods without feeling sure of the owner's right to them. If you can prove your right to a place in Heaven, I will buy it for \$10,000." For once the atheist had no reply.

How different is the case of every true Christian who has heard the Saviour say, "Fear not; for I have redeemed thee, I have



Rev. Norman Lewis

called thee by thy name; thou art mine."

### The Father in That Eternal Home

Jesus called Heaven "my Father's house." After hearing that wonderful statement, Thomas said, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest." Jesus replied, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from hence forth ye know him, and have seen him... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

No human being has meant more to me than my precious dad. What a tower of strength he is to me! While life lasts I shall never forget parting with him in the U.S.A. I was soon to leave for South America. He was obeying a more urgent missionary call to go to Africa as a missionary dentist. I remember the last strong grip of his hand as he swung aboard the train to begin a journey halfway round the world. Afterward, our family came to Argentina. But we have not lost touch. Fellowship with Dad is wonderful. Any letter from him makes a bad day bright for me and a good day better.

But is someone reading this who knows not God, or the love of a human father? Oh, heed the loving voice of God. He says to you, "Son, daughter, give me your heart."

I read of a father who was greatly troubled about his son that had gone wrong and was ill and despondent. The boy, trembling and fearful, wrote to his father. The father sent a telegram in reply. It consisted of one word—"Home"—and it was signed, "Father." The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is God's telegram to every sinner. It invites you "Home" and is signed, "Father."

### The Finality of That Eternal Home

"Man goeth to his long home" (Eccl. 12:5). Nothing seems firm, nothing steady in this last age of the world's history. Thousands of desperate souls, without anchor, choose suicide. Self-destruction is pathetic and profitless. It only plunges the lost soul into an endless Hell. But Christians are not pushed through that door of darkness. Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled... in my Father's house are many mansions."

A fierce storm was sweeping the Great Lakes. A steam tug towing a barge began to flounder. The captain and his mates took to a small boat. All night long they tossed to and fro, every instant in jeopardy of their lives. In the morning they were rescued by a passing ship. The captain afterward testified that all the long night as they were beaten and tossed by the tempest there was one thing which nerved their arms and kept their hearts from sinking in despair. It was this: shining through the darkness and the storm they saw the lights of home.

Friend, put sin behind your back and take Jesus into your heart. Get a vision of the lights of Heaven and walk toward it. Not that the Christian life is always easy. At times you may ask:

*"Is THIS the right road home, O Lord?  
The clouds are dark and still,  
The stony path is sharp and hard,*

## Count Your Blessings!

(Continued from page 7)

make a holy resolve that, in the light of all God's wonderful blessings, my life will glorify Him.

Years ago, in Gary, Indiana, a man from Rock Island, Illinois, came to visit me as I conducted revival services in Gary. We sat in my hotel room together. Some two years before the dear man had heard me preach in Jackson, Michigan. He recently had been widowed and was left in loneliness. The depression and hard times had robbed him of his cherished job. He heard me preach on "Ye Have Not Because Ye Ask Not." He said that that was the first time he ever heard that it was all right to ask God for a job. As he sat in my hotel room with his hands upon

his knees and with tears trickling down his cheeks, he told me his story. He had prayed and the next day he had gotten a job in the big manufacturing plant where he wanted to work, in the very department he chose under a foreman whom he greatly admired. Then he had been transferred to Rock Island, Illinois, for a better job. While there he found a little church where he was happy and where he heard the Gospel. He prayed for God to give him some work to do and God led him to teach an adult class. The church then elected him as assistant pastor. Then he prayed again and God sent an evangelist and a great revival with many, many souls saved. He told me how his whole life was transformed and how his empty heart was filled with blessings. He said, "After all He has done for me, Brother Rice..." and he broke into sobs, then continued, "...after all He has done for me I will serve Him—I will serve Him 'til I die!"

As I said then, so say I again, "And so will I!"

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's"—Ps. 103:1-5.*

So, we close as we began, "Bless the Lord, O my soul!"

*Each step brings some fresh hill!  
I thought the way would brighter grow  
And that the sun with warmth would glow  
And joyous songs from free hearts flow.  
Is THIS the right road home?*

*"Yes, child! this very path I trod,  
The clouds were dark for Me,  
The stony path was hard to tread:  
Not sight but faith can see  
That at the end the sun shines bright,  
Forever where there is no night,  
And glad hearts rest from earth's fierce fight,  
It IS the Right Road Home!"*

You are bound for somewhere eternally. You can give yourself to (Continued on page 10)

## Is the Bible the Word of God?

(Continued from page 1)

equivalent expression. He could never claim lightly and hypocritically to speak by divine authority if he did not mean what he said. Evidently he believed with all his soul that what he had to say to the Thessalonian Christians was the genuine Word of God which ought to be heard and obeyed. Nor was he speaking only of the paragraph in which this fragmentary quotation occurs, for in I Thessalonians 2:13 he said also:

*"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."*

The entire contents of the message, including both the writings of the Old Testament which he quoted and also the addresses which he gave and the letters that he wrote, were to be regarded as in truth the Word of God, true in content, revelational in character, and final in authority. There can be no doubt that Paul of Tarsus believed that the Old Testament Scriptures and also the additional revelation that the Holy Spirit gave through him as he wrote were the Word of God which could answer effectively and conclusively the questions of the Christians who addressed them to him.

In the twentieth century the Christian believer holds that the entire Bible constitutes the Word of God. He accepts it as the only reliable guide to the understanding of the method and purpose of God in dealing with humanity. Acting on that assumption, he proceeds to evaluate his own status before God by its declaration concerning him, to trust its promises for his salvation, and to obey its precepts without protest. If he were unsure of its authority he would scarcely suffer voluntarily the humiliation of being declared a sinner, alienated from God and helpless to save himself, nor would he submit to the restraints which it imposes. Only the conviction that the Bible is the Word of God can make a man bow his will to the truth.

Not all men nor all professing Christians do so believe. One recent writer of a systematic theology says of the Bible:1

*"It contains many inconsistencies and inaccuracies, but it may nevertheless present truth of such profound worth as to make the inaccuracies seem inconsequential."*

In fairness to the author one should state that he claims to believe in the "inspiration" of the Scriptures, and that the Bible contains a larger element of divine truth than any other single book ever written. He grants that it stands unique among all other books for its wisdom and for its uplifting influence. Nevertheless the plain meaning of these words and their context is that the Bible is mistaken in many of its facts and in many of its judgments.

If the Bible as originally written is not inerrant in its facts and in its judgments, by what criterion are its readers to distinguish the truth from the error and to accept the one while rejecting the other? Individual judgment is fallible. Even if the truth in Scripture is discernable by private judgment or even by the direction of the Holy Spirit, the possibility of subjective error in the individual would only magnify the assumed element of error in the text. The result would be a very uncertain authority from which one could expect no satisfactory answer for his deepest questions.

Such is not the tone of Paul's statement in Thessalonians. He has no doubt whatsoever that he speaks on the authority of God. Whether Paul were referring to some utterance of Christ when he said, "by the word of the Lord," or to a new revelation made directly to him, the meaning is the same. He believed the source of (Continued on page 10)

### FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Every product and service advertised in THE SWORD OF THE LORD is investigated and approved.

*"You May Buy With Confidence From our Advertisers"*

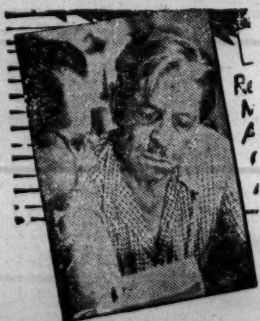
### DON'T MISS THIS!

Many are glad they wrote for our OFFER. You too, if qualified, can make \$8,000.00 to \$8,000.00 your first year. Preference given those seeking work with Christian emphasis. Openings also for part time employment.

Write today. State experience and full particulars. "Opportunity Plus" booklet FREE

JOHN RUDIN & COMPANY INC.  
1018 S. Wabash, Dept. C28, Chicago 5, Ill.

### SKID ROW STOPCAP



The Memphis Story, is a beautiful colored sound motion picture, 40 minutes in length, produced by the Memphis Union Mission, Jimmy Stroud, Supt. We are looking for individuals who own their own motion picture equipment and are experienced in presenting Christian films in their own area, to handle this Christian film on a percentage basis. If you are interested and would like this ministry please write for further information

JIMMY STROUD  
Memphis Union Mission  
107 Poplar, Memphis, Tennessee

Please Mention  
THE SWORD OF THE LORD  
When Answering Advertisements



## Is the Bible the Word of God?

(Continued from page 9)

the answer which he gave to the Thessalonians was the final, authoritative revelation of God.

What reasons can be advanced for such a belief? Can the Bible, which represents the total record of special revelation, be thus accepted?

It is not our purpose to deal with every attack that has been made upon the integrity of the Scriptures, nor to attempt to reconcile every difficulty of interpretation that may be cited. We shall attempt rather to show how the Bible can justify its claim to be a unique, reliable, and authoritative revelation from God different from any other book.

### Universality

First of all, the Bible, if it is a revelation from God, must be universal in its application. God does not speak for only one people or for only one culture or for only one period of history. Even though His revelation may be given at one time, in one place, and at one stage of history, its truth must be of universal validity if it is to be useful to the generations following. The Bible fits this requirement.

Written largely by Jews, belonging to one of the most exclusive of nations, it still appeals to readers of every race, color, and climate. It speaks a universal language of the heart, regardless of the tongue in which it is read.

Written by ancients who never saw or even dreamed of our modern civilization with its new modes of thought and with its marvellous inventions, it is still the "best seller" on the bookstands.

Written in one obscure corner of the globe in what the modern world would call a "backward" civilization, it appeals to men of all climates and conditions.

Written in two tongues which are not now spoken by any large proportion of the world's population, it is eminently translatable and can more readily than most books be rendered into the thought of all peoples and races.

Written by wise men, its stories and precepts are understandable to the simplest child, and yet its profundity can occupy the life study of the most learned scholar.

In this Book is history for the student, wisdom for the philosopher, counsel for the perplexed, comfort for the sorrowing, and courage for the defeated. There is no age, place, or circumstance which something in it will not fit. What mind constructed this Book which is both ancient and modern? What committee prepared this anthology of wisdom that fits all humanity? Who except God Himself could have anticipated the needs of a world?

### Accuracy

A second reason for believing the Bible to be the word of God is its historical accuracy. One ought to observe carefully that historical accuracy does not make it the Word of God, but rather confirms it as the Word of God. Any one of us might write a letter which could be proved by critical investigation to be truth-

ful in every detail, but its truthfulness would not necessarily make it a divine revelation. On the other hand, we could not accept the Bible as of divine origin if it could be proved erroneous in its statements. God does not lie, nor does He commit errors of judgment.

Careful distinction should be drawn between a statement that is unverified and a statement that is false. Some records in the Bible cannot be proved true because proper historical evidence is lacking, but that does not mean that they are untrue. On the other hand, on many occasions the Bible has been shown to speak accurately when its detractors have denied its truthfulness because they could not substantiate its claims with historical proof.

For instance, during the French Revolution the Bible's claim to antiquity was assailed because it was supposed that the art of writing was unknown when much of the Scripture claimed to be written. Today archaeologists have shown that the art of writing is at least as old as Abraham, and perhaps much older. Theoretically it would have been possible for Abraham to have carried records on clay tablets from Ur of the Chaldees to his new home in Palestine, and to have transcribed them on parchment which he could have bequeathed to his descendants.

In more recent times the accuracy of the book of Acts was challenged because it used certain terms that could not be found in any other records of the first century. In Acts 17:6 the author says that Jason and certain other men were dragged before the "rulers of the city," or, as the Greek term names them, the "politarchs." Nowhere else was the word ever found as a title of city magistrates in Thessalonica, and the skeptics accused the author of Acts of fabricating it. In the middle of the nineteenth century a fragment of a Roman arch was found there which not only used the word in an inscription, but which contained names similar to those that appear in the Pauline epistles.<sup>2</sup> The truth of Acts was thus amply vindicated.

Little by little archaeological and literary discoveries have confirmed the statements of the Bible and have demonstrated that they belong to the realm of fact rather than to the realm of fiction. If some unresolved problems still remain, the burden of proof lies on those who question the accuracy of the Scriptures rather than on those who defend them.

The Bible is scientifically accurate in the sense that it makes no extravagant or foolish claims. One should always remember that there is a difference between what is nonscientific and what is unscientific. By nonscientific is meant the use of language which is non-technical, and which may be descriptively correct without being technically exact. For instance, one may speak of a sunset, although the sun really does not set; it is the earth that moves.

Just so the Bible describes natural phenomena in terms of the day in which it was written, but it does not stoop to the follies and exaggerations which generally characterized that era. Why is it that in a time when the majority of the men thought that the earth was flat and that the sun and planets revolved around it, that one of the biblical writers said, "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." (Job 26:7)? How does it happen that the Bible is so free from superstition and erroneous ideas about science? Had it been written in the language of the modern laboratory it would have been unintelligible to the men for the benefit of whom it was produced.

The Bible is psychologically accurate, not in the sense that it uses modern psychological terms, but in the sense that it is true to the facts about human nature and that it treats these facts impartially. When an Egyptian king met defeat, he usually refrained from recording his disasters on the monuments that he erected. He was much more likely to chisel the name of his predecessor off the statue that carried a list of victories, and to put his own name in its place. The Bible, on the other hand, is filled with the stories of reverses and failures. It narrates unblushingly the errors and transgressions of the nation of Israel as well as the victories that it achieved. The biographies of such heroes as Moses, David, Elijah, and others are not written in flattering superlatives. Their shortcomings and sins are openly exposed to the gaze of the world. Although they were devout servants of God they are not represented as impossibly virtuous. Moses lost his temper, and consequently forfeited an opportunity to enter Canaan. (Num. 20:8-12). David committed the triple crime of adultery, deceit, and murder (II Sam. 11:1-17). Elijah gave way to despondency, and asked that he might die, whereupon God handed him his resignation (I Kings 19:1-16). With perfect candor the Bible portrays men just as they are with all their human foibles and sins, and the penetrating analysis they give anticipates the shrewdest psychological judgments of modern times.

Most startling of all, the Bible is accurate in its prediction of the future. Seven hundred years before Christ Babylon was the dominant city of the Middle East. Built on a fertile plain by the Euphrates river, it was encircled by walls more than forty miles in circumference, thirty-five feet high and eighty feet wide. On the top of the wall was a roadway on which four chariots could be driven abreast. The walls were pierced by one hundred bronze gates, through which the traffic of the city flowed. The interior of the walls was lined with tile. River traffic from the Euphrates was cared for by the wharves and quays which bordered the streets. The palaces, temples, and public buildings were magnificently finished in glazed tiles which even today preserve their rich colors and ornate designs. Artificial gardens containing plants and trees from every quarter of the known world adorned the city. Babylon was the military and commercial center of the world, and seemed likely to maintain her ascendancy for centuries to come.

At the very height of her prosperity and power the prophets of Judah predicted that she would fall. Isaiah, in whose lifetime Babylon rose to supremacy, wrote:

"And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in the pleasant places; and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged." — Isa. 13:19-22.

## Going Home

(Continued from page 9)

Jesus Christ just now. Will you do it?

I close with the testimony of D. J. Fant, Sr., a railroad man who gave himself to Jesus Christ. On his final day of active service he wrote:

"Tonight I expect to make my last run. When I get into Atlanta tomorrow morning, I shall not railroad any more. But I do not mean to stop work. I expect to serve my Master as long as I am in the flesh, but now necessarily in a different way.

"Of course it will be hard to readjust myself. A person cannot wash the habits of fifty years off with soap and water. I have precious memories: the fascination of a fast express running through the early morning hours;—the musical roar of a heavy steel train striking a high trestle, then a shorter roar on one not so long; the long mountain grade from Tugalo to Mount Airy; the pounding of a big Pacific-type engine with 210 pounds of steam pressure as it echoes through the mountain gulches; the roar of two big trains as they pass on a double

track with the friendly wink of a fellow engineer's headlight on the opposite side. How could I forget the glory of the moon and stars, the break of day, and the gradual eclipse of darkness with the light of the rising sun? To see the mountains over in the Smokies being encircled by the morning's light? Then to come to the end of the run is like the grand finale of a noted pianist who has touched every key, and then rises as the audience stands with him in the highest pitch of joy and expectation. No artist can paint such a scene!

"If I, like Hezekiah of old, could have fifteen years added to my life, I would not ask the Lord for that. To me the future is too inviting. The end of the run means home and Heaven and joy and rest. The labors of life will be past. So I am not burdened with care, nor remorseful over disappointment. My back is to the night, and my face is to the rising sun. I want to meet you at the Grand Central Terminal—at the dawn of eternity."

— THE END —

For Isaiah to utter this prophecy about Babylon in the eighth century before Christ seemed about as sensible as for some long-haired fanatic in New Zealand to predict the same thing about New York or Chicago today. Did not Babylon possess the world's greatest military might? Did she not control the markets and the purse strings of the Orient? Did she not number the world's wisest men in her university and in her courts of law? Did not the fertile valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris provide ample food for her teeming population? What other power was there that could match her economic or military strength? Such a prediction as that of Isaiah seemed utterly ridiculous.

Isaiah did not live to see his prediction fulfilled, but it was carried out to the letter. Today Babylon is a heap of ruins. Its commerce has vanished and its glories have fled. Its ruins have been a quarry for vandals and a happy hunting ground for archaeologists. The once great city has utterly fallen. God wrote its doom in His Word centuries before the final collapse came; but though it came slowly, it came surely. The voice of the prophet spoke truth.

Nor is the fate of Babylon mere coincidence. With equally striking precision the fate of other nations and cities—Edom, Moab, Nineveh, Tyre—has been foretold and fulfilled. The Bible has written history in advance too often to be dismissed as lucky guessing or as mere chance.

### Unity

A third reason for believing the Bible to be the Word of God is its remarkable unity. If God really is its Author, the Book should have one purpose, one message and one goal. Yet at first glance its unity is not apparent. It was not written at one time, but the manuscripts from which it has descended were inscribed at various intervals during a period of fifteen hundred years. Its authors did not belong to any one group or class of people, except that nearly all of them were Hebrews. Moses was an executive and military leader. David was a king. Amos was a farmer and herdsman. Isaiah was a statesman. Solomon was a savorant and a diplomat. Jeremiah was a preacher. Daniel was a prime minister. Paul was an ex-rabbi. Peter was a fisherman, Luke, the only Gentile, was a physician. Nevertheless, in spite of their different viewpoints, characters, education and literary ability, the works which these men produced fitted together to make a Book of one message.

This Book was not written within the unifying influence of one culture. The Pentateuch was influenced by Egypt, as its vocabulary shows. Joshua, Judges, Samuel reflect Canaanite influences. Daniel and Ezekiel were produced under the rule of Babylon. Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther have a Persian back-

ground, as have Haggai and Zechariah. The whole New Testament is tinged with the Greco-Roman civilization of the first century. No one of these cultures or civilizations, however, can account for the spiritual dynamic that flourishes within the pages of the Bible, and that gives a stronger coloring to the Book than the influence of the national or ethnic culture in which it was produced.

The literary forms of the Bible are varied. Its truth is expressed in genealogies, essays, poetry, love-songs, hymns, short stories, philosophy, ethics, theology, debate, and ritual. There is no uniformity of mode of expression, for that varies with the individual author. From the first chapters to the last, however, there is one objective for the Book, the disclosure of God to man. One major theme, the program of that revelation, sometimes clearly discernable, sometimes concealed beneath a mass of apparently unrelated material, pervades the whole volume. There is one persistent clue to its meaning, the constantly recurring though sometimes shadowy figure of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose appearing is foreshadowed in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament. In Him the Bible finds its true unity.

A small boy was once given a picture puzzle by his father, who hoped that it would entertain him for an hour or so. In a few minutes the little fellow appeared with the puzzle put together properly. His father was astonished that he had been able to solve the puzzle so quickly, and asked him how he did it. He replied that he had found the picture of a man on one side, and that with the aid of the portrait he had pieced together the puzzle. Stamped indelibly on the Scripture of God is the imprint of a coming Man, the Messiah. As the theme of the Bible unfolds the outline of the prophesied Man becomes increasingly plainer until He stands revealed in the words of the New Testament. The unity of the Bible in Christ is a testimony to its divine origin.

### The Message

Centered around this Person is the message of the Book. Only this Bible speaks of the love of God for man. No other piece of ancient religious literature contains anything like John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Other books may speak of man's failure or depravity or degradation, but only the Bible states that God has provided a means of lifting man to a new purity and to a new life. Many systems of theology and philosophy have been ingeniously invented and ably defended, but only the Bible promises the impartation of such new

(Continued on page 11)

### HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

A Book of Sermons

by R. C. CAMPBELL

Introduction by Robert G. Lee

Culled from a lifetime of preaching and writing, these powerful messages cover a wide variety of subjects, including "Losing Jesus," "No Armchair Religion," "Missions or Omissions," and "The Second Coming—When?" Throughout his active ministry, the author emphasized: a greater stress on evangelism; an awakening of Stewardship; arousing the ministry and laity to more compassionate concern and activity. \$2.00

### THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

An Exposition

by CHARLES R. ERDMAN

From the pen of one of our outstanding contemporary expositors comes a penetrating study of Isaiah, "The Evangelical Prophet." The author describes Isaiah—the man, his times, his prophecies—then offers a detailed analysis: the prophecies of punishment, the historical sections, and those prophecies of restoration which reach a glorious climax in the perfected Kingdom of God. Here is new understanding of the prophet who so profoundly influenced Christian thought over the centuries. \$2.00

at your bookstore

Fleming H. Revell Company, Publishers



## The Penitent Thief

(Continued from page 1)

Christians here this morning would only consecrate themselves to the work of Christ, they might be the means of converting as many as that before the week is out.

Now let us look at Christ hanging on His cross between two thieves; the scribes and Pharisees wagging their heads and jeering at Him, His disciples gone away, and only His mother and one or two other women in sight to cheer Him with their presence among all this crowd of enemies. Hear those spiteful Pharisees calling out to Him, 'If Thou be the Son of God come down from the cross, and we will believe Thee.' And the account says, the two thieves 'cast the same in his teeth.'

So, then, the first thing that we know of our man is that he is a reviler of Christ. You would think he ought to be doing something else at such a time as that; but hanging there in the midst of his tortures, and certain to be dead in a few hours, instead of confessing his sins and preparing to meet the God whose law he had broken all his life, he is abusing God's only Son. Surely this man cannot sink any lower, until he sinks into Hell!

### The Sinner Convicted

The next thing we hear of him he appears to be under conviction. Nobody is ever converted till he is convicted. In Luke 23: 39-42 we read: "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this

man hath done nothing amiss."

Now what do you suppose it was that made this great change in this man's feelings in these few hours? Christ hadn't preached him a sermon; had given him no exhortation. The darkness had not yet come on; the earth had not opened its mouth; the business of death was going on as usual; the crowd was still there, mocking and hissing, and wagging their heads; yet this man, who in the morning was railing at Christ, is now confessing his sins. "We indeed justly." No miracle had been wrought before his eyes. The Son of God had not come down from the cross. No angel from Heaven had come to place a glittering crown upon His head, instead of the bloody crown of thorns. What was it, then, that made such a change in him? I will tell you what I think it was. I think it was the Saviour's prayer—"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

I seem to hear the thief talking with himself in this way:

"What a strange kind of man this must be! He says He is king of the Jews; and the superscription on His cross says the same thing. But what sort of a throne is this! He says He is the Son of God. Why does not God send down His angels, and destroy all this great crowd of people who are torturing His Son? If He has all power now, as He used to have when He worked those miracles they talked about, why does He not bring out His vengeance and sweep all these wretches into destruction? I would do it in a minute if I had the power. O! if I could, I would open the earth and swallow up these tormentors! But this Man prays to God to 'forgive them.' Strange! Strange!

He must be so different from the rest of us. I am sorry I said one word against Him when they first hung us up here.

"What a difference there is between Him and me! Here we are hanging on two crosses, side by side; but all the rest of our lives we have been far apart. I have been robbing and murdering, and He has been feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and raising the dead. Now these people are railing at us both. What a strange world this is! I will not rail at Him any more. Indeed, I begin to believe He must be the Son of God; for surely no man could forgive His enemies like that."

This is what did it, my friends. This poor man had been scourged and beaten and nailed to the cross, and hung up there for the world to gaze upon; and he was not sorry for his sins one single bit—did not feel the least conviction on account of all that misery. But when he heard the Saviour praying for His murderers, that broke his heart.

I remember having heard a story, somewhere, of a bad boy who had run away from home. He had given his father no end of trouble. He had refused all the invitations which his father had sent him to come home and be forgiven, and help to comfort his old heart. He had even gone so far as to scoff at his father and mother. But one day a letter came telling him his father was dead, and they wanted him to come home and attend the funeral. At first he determined he would not go, but then he thought it would be a shame not to pay some little respect to the memory of so good a man after he was dead; and so, just as a matter of form, he took the train, and went to the old home, sat through all the funeral services, saw his father buried, and came back with the rest of the friends to the house,

## Is the Bible the Word of God?

(Continued from page 10)

with his heart as cold and stony as ever.

But when the old man's will was brought out to be read, the ungrateful son found that his father had remembered him along with all the rest of the family in the will, and had left him an inheritance with the others who had not gone astray. This broke his heart. It was too much for him that his old father, during all those years in which he had been so wicked and rebellious, had never ceased to love him.

That is just the way our Father in Heaven does with us. That is just the way Jesus does with people who refuse to give their hearts to Him. He loves them in spite of their sins; and it is this love which, more than any thing else, brings hardhearted sinners to their knees.

### He Confessed His Sinfulness

Now this man confessed his sins. A man may be very sorry for his sins; but, if he doesn't confess them, he has no promise of being forgiven. Hear him: 'We are suffering justly.'

I never knew any man to be converted till he confessed. Cain felt bad enough over his sins, but he didn't confess. Saul was greatly tormented in his mind, but he went to the witch of Endor rather than to the Lord. Judas felt so bad over the betrayal of his Master that he went out and hanged himself; but he did not confess, that is, he did not confess to God. True, he went and confessed to the priests, saying, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." But it was of no use to confess to them. They couldn't forgive him. What he should have done was to confess to God; but instead of that, he went right away and hanged himself. How different is the case with this man! He confesses his sins, and Christ has mercy on him at once.

There is no hope of a man being saved until he admits himself to be a sinner and confesses that he deserves to be punished. There is no hope for the man who folds his arms and says, "I don't think God will punish sin; I am going to take the risk." God never forgives a man unless he confesses his sins.

### He Believed in Christ, Trusted Him

The next step is faith. We have heard a great deal about the faith of Abraham, yet God had him in training for twenty-five years. There was Moses, who was a very faithful man; but God had him eighty years in His School. Elijah was a man of faith, but just see what good reason he had for his faith; how God took care of him and fed him in time of famine. But here was a man who perhaps never saw a miracle; a man who had spent his life among criminals and blasphemers; whose friends were thieves and outlaws; who was dying in agony in the midst of a crowd of people who were reviling and rejecting the Son of God. Nailed to the cross, racked with pain in every nerve, overwhelmed with horror, his wicked soul in a perfect tempest of passion, this poor wretch manages to lay hold upon Christ and trust Him for a swift salvation. The faith of this thief, how it flashes out amid the darkness on Mount Calvary! It is the most astounding thing in the Bible!

### He Confessed Christ as His Own Lord

"This man hath done nothing amiss." Thank God for such a faith! How his heart goes out to the Son of God! How glad he would be to fall on his knees at the foot of that cross and pour out his prayer to Him who

want to know whether the message of the Book will really produce what it offers. In plain words, does it work?

History provides a convincing demonstration of the effects of the power in the Word of God. In 1787 a British ship sailed from England to the South Sea islands under the command of Captain Bligh, who was engaged in botanical research. After ten months of voyaging the vessel reached its destination, and the captain took on a cargo of plants and other goods which he hoped to take back to England. Because of his selfishness and brutality the men finally mutinied, and set him and some others adrift in a small boat, while they took possession of the ship. After incredible hardships Captain Bligh made his way back to England. The mutineers sailed again for the islands where they had been staying. Some of them married native wives and settled there; a few others took the ship to an uncharted island where they scuttled it, and established a colony. For a while they prospered; but one or two of them discovered how to make alcohol from native plants. Drunkenness, debauchery and violence brought about the deaths of all of them until only one, Alexander Smith, survived.

One day, as Smith was rummaging in the belongings of one of his dead companions, he found a Bible. He began to read it, and its message gripped his heart. He repented of his sins, turned to Christ and began to teach the content of the Bible to the women and children whom he gathered around him. The colony was organized on the basis of the ethics which he found in the Bible, and it began to prosper once again.

Twenty years later the captain of a British vessel, cruising in the South Seas, came upon an island not previously known to exist. As he approached it, he was astounded to be greeted by inhabitants who paddled out to his vessel in canoes, and who hailed him in English. Instead of finding a depraved group of second generation mutineers, he was welcomed by a courteous group of people who lived in a society morally better than his own. Despite their bad antecedents, crime, drunkenness, disease and illiteracy were unknown among them. How did it happen that in twenty years the descendants of rough, lawless, drunken mutineers created a colony of upright, honest people? Such a thing would be impossible had not the power of the Word of God changed their lives. To this day the inhabitants of Pitcairn Island, the descendants of the mutineers, are still noted for their sobriety and for their godliness.

There is only one Book that can do what this Book does. It pierces the hardest armor of self-satisfaction and of obstinacy. It sets standards of righteousness that no man could invent by his own ingenuity. It declares a way of salvation so simple, so complete and so effective that the obedient believer finds assurance and confidence when he puts his faith in Christ. Its precepts are an unfailing guide for welfare in this world and its promises give hope for the life beyond. Acceptance of its truth may be costly, but rejection of its truth is disastrous. Believe its promises, receive its Christ into your life, and you will know the salvation of which its pages speak.

### DOCUMENTATION

1. Harold De Wolf, *A theology of the Living Church*. (New York: Harper & Bros., Publishers, 1953) pp. 75, 79.
2. Richard Belward Rackham, *The Acts of the Apostles* (Second Edition). London: Methuen & Co., n.d.), p. 293.

is hanging on it! But this he cannot do. His hands and feet are nailed fast to the wood, but they cannot nail his eyes nor his heart. He can at least turn his head to look upon the Son of God, and his breaking heart can go out in love to the One who is dying beside him—dying for him, and dying for you and me.

Then he goes on to pray, "Lord, remember me when thou comest

(Continued on page 12)

## BABY BILLBOARDS

WHERE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SWORD READERS FIND BIG VALUES IN LITTLE SPACE

### CLERGY BENEFITS For Full Time Religious Workers

Religious education directors, deaconesses, seminary students, Christian college instructors, etc. can get the same low rates as ministers on health, hospital, accident and life insurance. No salesmen will call. Write for free bulletin. Since 1900.

**MINISTERS LIFE & CASUALTY UNION**  
128 Minister's Life Bldg. • Minneapolis 16, Minn.

**HANDY MAN WANTED**—for work all year at a large Bible Conference grounds in New York State. Job offers a good home and immediate opportunity for service. Interested especially in a pensioner or retired man, with good health. Work includes furniture repair, painting, carpentry, cleaning, odd jobs, plumbing, electrical repair. Good shop with power tools. Couples considered. Write giving full details, experience, references. Box No. 1. c/o SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Ill.

### "JESUS SAVES" Pins

Sell "JESUS SAVES" pins. 12 Karat Gold-Rolled Plate. Lovely—easy to sell. Excellent profits. Ideal Christmas gifts. Write to:

### GOSPEL PINS

Box 425 Miami, Oklahoma

### Monroe FOLDING BANQUET TABLES



If you are on the Kitchen Committee of some Church, School, Society, Club, etc., in your town you will be interested in this modern Folding Banquet Table. Write for Catalog and special discounts to institutions and organizations.

MCNROE CO 149 Church St. COLFAX, IOWA

## News Notes

### TO CURB TELEVISION ADS FOR BEER-WINE

NEW YORK — Television advertising for beer and wine may be toned down or even prohibited, as whiskey and other hard liquor ads already are.

The Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives has formally censured beer-drinking scenes as "not in good taste" and has suggested that beer and wine industries cancel all TV advertising. The committee also called upon all broadcasters to report by January 1 on what they have done to dry up the drinking scenes.

It is believed that the strong drive of religious and moral forces on the Congress for restrictive legislation covering liquor TV advertising has thrown a scare not only into the politicians but into the industry.

### RESTAURANT FEATURES

#### "CHRISTIAN ATMOSPHERE"

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (RNS) — A new restaurant here which features "a Christian atmosphere" and five-cent coffee may lead casual Springfield diners-out toward a more Christian life.

That, at least, is the hope of a nonprofit organization, headed by three Protestant ministers, that recently opened the Celestial Grill in downtown Springfield. Their corporation is not connected with any local congregation. They are buy-

(Continued on page 12)

Please Mention  
THE SWORD OF THE LORD  
When Answering Advertisements

### Help us distribute CHRISTMAS SEALS That Honor Christ!

Details concerning our Plan mailed upon request! Write to-day to  
**FRED MAC ARTHUR**  
Box 2732  
Paterson, N. J.

### Christmas TRACTS

In color with art work and appropriate scripture. Enclose a gospel message with your Christmas cards.

SEND 25c FOR A SELECTION OF 25

THE BIG BROTHER TRACT BAND BOX 888-AKRON 9, OHIO

### Want To Help—The Need?

For Tape Recorder, Typewriter, Flannel Aid material, slides, records, sound, clean books, Bibles, Testaments, and Gospels for our expansion program in missions, camps, Bible schools and shut-in ministry.

**Crusade for Christ Tract Campaign**  
E. F. Roberts, Director  
125 Hunnicutt St., N. W., Atlanta, Ga.

### SCOFIELD BIBLES

Over 40 different bindings are now available, including the loose-leaf and the new pocket size. Write card for latest prices and descriptions. Thumb Index and Gold Stamping optional. We have a large stock and each order receives individual attention.

**FOWLERS' CHRISTIAN BOOK STORE**  
113 Main St. Hamburg, New York

**NEW PORTABLE TYPEWRITER AS LOW AS \$47.50.** New DeLuxe Postcard Duplicator with automatic feed, adjustable for size and weight of card or paper, including supply kit \$12.75. Extra quire of stencils \$1.35. Standard and portable typewriters—new and rebuilt at special price to Sword of the Lord readers. The Typewriter Specialists, 5641 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago 36, Ill. Grovehill 6-8100.



## The Penitent Thief

(Continued from page 11)

into thy kingdom." Here is a confession of Christ. He calls Him "Lord." A queer Lord; nails through His hands and feet, fastening Him to the cross! What a strange kind of throne! No scepter in His hand, no crown upon His head; the blood trickling down over His face. But He was all the more "Lord" because of all this.

Sinner, call Him "Lord" tonight; take your place as a poor condemned rebel, and cry out, "Lord, remember me!" That wasn't a very long prayer, but you see it was a prevailing one. Three words: a chain of three golden links binding a poor sinner and his Lord together.

Some people think they must have a form of prayer, a prayer-book, perhaps, if they are going to address the throne of grace properly; but what could that poor fellow do with a prayer-book up there, hanging on the cross, with both hands nailed fast! Suppose it had been necessary for some priest or minister to pray for him, what could he do? There is nobody there to pray for him, and yet he is going to die in a few hours. He is out of reach of help from man, but God has laid help upon One who is mighty and that One is close at hand.

"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

Where was the kingdom of this King? Where were His subjects? The soldiers were there to torture Him and killed Him. The people that stayed by wagged their heads and railed at Him. When He called for water they gave Him gall; when He writhed in agony they mocked Him; but He was nonetheless King for all that. The faith of the poor thief went beyond that awful scene, and looked into the world to come.

### He Was Forgiveness, Saved

Now look at the answer to his prayer. He got more than he asked, just as every one does who asks in faith. He only prayed to be "remembered" when Christ should come into His kingdom;

but Jesus answers, "I will take you right up with me into my kingdom": "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." That must have been a heavenly kingdom, for surely there seemed to be small chance of a kingdom on earth.

Christ says: "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in heaven." He looks kindly upon the thief and says, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

And now the darkness falls upon the earth; the sun hides itself; but, worse than all, the Father hides His face from the Son. What else is the meaning of that bitter cry, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Ah! It had been written, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Jesus is made a curse for us. God cannot look upon sin; and now His own Son is bearing, in His own body, the sins of all the world; and so God cannot look upon Him.

I think that is what was heaviest upon the Saviour's heart, away there in the garden, when He prayed, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me." He could bear the unfaithfulness of His friends, the spite of His enemies, the pain of His crucifixion, and the shadow of death. He could bear all these; but when it came to the hiding of His Father's face, that seemed almost too much for even the Son of God to bear. But even this He endured for our sins; and now the face of God is turned back to us, whose sins had turned it away, and looking upon Jesus, the sinless One, He sees our souls in Him.

In the midst of all His agony, how sweet it must have been to Christ to hear that poor thief confessing Him! He likes to have men confess Him.

Don't you remember His asking Peter, "Whom do men say that I am?" and when Peter answered, "Some people say you are Moses, some people say you are

Elias, and some people say you are one of the old prophets," He asks again, "But, Peter, whom do you say I am?" And when Peter says, "Thou art the Son of God," Jesus blesses him for that confession.

And now this thief confesses Him—confesses Him in the darkness. Perhaps it is so dark he cannot see Him any longer; but he feels that He is there beside him. Christ wants us to confess Him in the dark as well as in the light; when it is hard as well as when it is easy. For He was not ashamed of us, but bore our sins and carried our sorrows, even unto death.

The last that this unbelieving world ever saw of Christ, He was on the cross; it was only to those who believed on Him that He revealed Himself after His resurrection. The last business of His life was to save this poor penitent thief. That was a part of the glory of His death.

No doubt Satan was saying to himself, "I shall have the soul of that thief pretty soon down here in the caverns of the lost; he belongs to me; he has belonged to me all these years." But in his last hours the poor wretch cries out to the Lord, and Jesus snaps the fetters that have bound his soul, and sets him at liberty. The Lion of the tribe of Judah seizes the prey from the jaws of the lion of Hell.

### Saved Without Sacrament, Without Baptism

I have known people who had sick relatives, and because they couldn't get a minister to come to the house and administer the sacrament they were greatly distressed and troubled. But this man never took the sacrament. I know of some others who were greatly exercised because little children were dying unbaptized—have seen them carry them through the streets because the pastor couldn't come. I am not saying anything against the ordinance by which we commemorate the death of our Saviour. God forbid! but let me say it is not necessary to salvation. I might die and be lost before I could get to the Lord's Supper; but if I get to the Lord I shall be saved. Thank God, salvation is within my reach! All I have to do is to reach out my hand and take it.

The poor thief had certainly never been baptized. If he wanted to be, they wouldn't have permitted it. If all the congregations in Chicago had been there, there would have been no one to help him. We wouldn't admit such a man to the Lord's table. But the good Lord took him right to His bosom.

If we are saved, let us go to the Lord's table, confess Him, follow Him, and obey Him—do what He bids; but let us keep salvation in its place. It is distinct and separate from everything else. If a man wants to be saved he can be saved without leaving this hall, without lifting an eye or a hand.

If the thief had lived fifty years he could not have done better service for Christ than he did. Why not make the prayer of the thief? You can make it—sinner and sinner. If you make it from your hearts God will answer tonight. You won't have to wait until you get home. We have communication from this Tabernacle with the throne of God, and our prayers can go up and be answered before the meeting is over. Suppose we make the supplication now, "Lord—remember-me!" Who cannot say that? And who cannot say it from the heart? It is just that short prayer which will bring blessing.

That is what I call sudden conversion—men calling on God for salvation and getting it. You certainly won't get it unless you call for it—unless you take it when He offers it to you. If you want Him to remember you—to save you—call upon Him.

The cross of Christ divides this congregation. There are only two sides—those for Christ, and those against Him. Think of the two thieves; one went down to death cursing God, and the other went to Glory.

What a contrast! In the morning he is led out, a condemned criminal; in the evening he is saved from his sins. In the morning he is cursing; in the evening

he is singing hallelujahs with a choir of angels. In the morning he is condemned by men as not fit to live on earth; in the evening he is reckoned good enough for Heaven. Christ was not ashamed to walk arm-in-arm with him down the golden pavements of the Eternal City.

He had heard the Saviour's cry, "It is finished!" He had seen the spear thrust into His side. Jesus had died before his very eyes, and hastened before him to get a place ready for this first soul brought from the world He had just redeemed.

You have heard of the child who did not like to die and go to Heaven because he didn't know anybody there. But the thief had one acquaintance: even the Master of the place. I can hear the Lord calling, "Gabriel, prepare a chariot; make haste: there is a friend of mine hanging upon that cross. They are breaking his legs. He soon will be ready to come. Make haste and bring him to Me." And the angel in the chariot sweeps down the sky, takes up the soul of the poor penitent thief, and hastens back again to Glory; while the gates of the City swing wide open, and the angels shout their welcome to this poor sinner "washed in the blood of the Lamb."

And that, my friends, is just what Christ wants to do for every sinner here. That is the business on which He came down from Heaven. That is why He died: and if He gives such great and swift salvation to the poor thief on the cross, surely He will give you the same if, like the penitent thief, you will repent, and confess and trust in the Saviour.

### You May Have Missed More Chances Than the Poor Thief

Somebody says that this man "was saved at the eleventh hour"; I don't know about that. It might have been the first hour with him. Perhaps he never knew about Christ until he was led out to die beside Him. This may have been the very first time he ever had a chance to know the Son of God.

How many of you gave your hearts to Christ the very first time He asked them of you? Are you not farther along in the day than even that poor thief?

A little while ago in one of the mining districts of England a young man attended one of our meetings and refused to go from the place until he had found peace in the Saviour. The next day he went down into the pit and the coal fell in upon him; and when they took him out he was broken and mangled, and had only two or three minutes of life left in him. His friends gathered about him, saw his lips moving, and, bending down their ears to catch his words, this was what they heard him say:

"It was a good thing I settled it last night."

Settle it now, my friends, once for all. Begin now to confess your sins, and trust the Lord now to save you and to remember you when He cometh into His kingdom.

### Your Decision for Christ

You have read the tender discussion of instantaneous conversion of the dying thief by D. L. Moody as preached in Chicago many years ago. Surely someone reads this who has never been converted, who has never been certain that his sins were forgiven. Will you turn to Christ today and trust Him once and forever as your own Saviour? The editor now begs you to confess yourself a sinner, to call on Christ for mercy, to trust Him this moment as your Saviour. If you will turn to Christ today and be saved, please sign the statement below, copy it in a letter and mail to me. How glad I will be! I will send you a letter of encouragement and help. Do it today!

Evangelist John R. Rice  
Editor, THE SWORD OF THE LORD  
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read D. L. Moody's sermon on "The Penitent Thief." I confess that in God's sight I, too, am a sinner. I need forgiveness and a new heart. I believe that Christ died for me and wants to save me. So, this moment, I call on Christ in my heart. This mo-

## News Notes

(Continued from page 11)

ing the building in which the grill is housed and plan eventually to set up an adjoining mission, with food service and some type of living quarters in the apartments above.

Although no attempt is made to evangelize the diners, a large picture of Christ hangs over the grill's main service counter. Plaques with biblical quotations are displayed about the walls, tracts are on the tables, and the jukebox plays only religious recordings. Staff members are always ready to discuss religion with any patron who asks for it.

Community reaction has been mostly favorable, with several customers confiding that they came to the Celestial Grill because they felt the need for spiritual consolation.

### The Power of Little Things

"Little is much when God is in it." Some of the greatest things in the world are the result of small beginnings. Some of the largest missionary societies were begun by prayer meetings beside a haystack. Some of earth's choicest saints were won by a kind word or a simple smile. "Who hath despised the day of small things?"

Many are discouraged from doing anything, because they think their store is feeble and small, or from going to the Lord because their treasury contains but a few copper pennies.

The *Indian Witness* tells the following: "Early in 1819, while waiting to see a patient, a young physician in New York took up a tract on missions, which lay in the room where he sat. On reaching home he spoke to his wife of the question that had arisen in his mind. As a result they set out for India as foreign missionaries. For thirty years the wife, and for thirty-six years the husband, labored among the heathen, and then went to be with their Lord.

Apart from what they did directly as missionaries, they left behind them seven sons and two daughters. Each of these sons married and with their wives and both sisters, gave themselves to the same mission work.

"Already have several grandchildren of the first missionary become missionaries to India. And at least thirty of that family—the Scudders—have given 529 years to India missions. The result of a tract that someone had laid on the table in a doctor's office."

The son of one of the chiefs of Burdwin was handed a tract one day, but he could not read. He started out and travelled a distance of 250 miles and found a missionary's wife who taught him to read, and led him to Christ.

He took a basketful of tracts and despite much difficulty preached the Gospel at his home, and was the means of converting in one year 1,500 natives who became members of the church in Arrecan. And this through one tract in the hands of a man who was earnest.

### IF

If I am afraid to speak the truth, lest I lose affection, or lest the one concerned should say, "You do not understand," or because I fear to lose my reputation for kindness; if I put my own good name before the other's highest good, then I know nothing of Calvary love. —Amy Carmichael

ment I trust Him to forgive and save me. I give Him my heart forever. I will openly confess Him as my Saviour and try to live for Him. I write this to take my stand for Christ.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SEE**

**THE GROWING STRUGGLE BETWEEN GODLESS COMMUNISM AND CHRISTIANITY!**

AN UNFORGETTABLE MOTION PICTURE

**"DEAD MEN ON FURLOUGH"**

THE TRUE STORY OF PASTOR CHAI CHRISTIAN MARTYR!

GRAPHICALLY TOLD BY **BOB PIERCE**

MISSIONARY-AMBASSADOR - U. N. CORRESPONDENT

featuring

**RICHARD LOO • KEYE LUKE • JEAN WONG • VICTOR SEN YUNG**

PRESENTED BY **WORLD VISION INC.**

Produced by **GREAT COMMISSION FILMS** • Directed by **DICK ROSS**

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SHOWING IN YOUR AREA, WRITE

**DR. FRANK C. PHILLIPS, Exec. Secy.**

**WORLD VISION, INC.**

P. O. BOX 151 PORTLAND 7, OREGON

**PEWS, PULPIT & CHANCEL**

*Furniture*

• • EARLY DELIVERY • •

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE

**J. P. REDINGTON & CO.**

DEPT. 137 SCRANTON 2, PA.